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Shamir responds to Saddam threat

المحدان الاحل

## Israeli pledge to hit back hard if Iraq attacks

By RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM AND ANDREW MCEWEN IN LONDON

ister, Yitzhak Shamir, gave a warning yesterday that war in the Gulf was very close", and promised the severest retaliation should Iraq attack.

He was responding to President Saddam Hussein's Christmas Eve threat that Tel Aviv would be his first target if war broke out. Israeli forces are on a higher state of alert than usual, and Mr Shamir said vesterday: "Whoever dares to strike Israel will be struck hard and in the most severe way in return."

Officials in Jerusalem declined to comment yesterday on reports that Moscow had urged Iraq not to attack Israel because it was likely to respond with a nuclear strike. Western sources believe that President Saddam wants to provoke an Israeli pre-emptive strike, believing that this would split the inter-national alliance ranged against him and unite the

Arab world against Israel. The newspaper Yediot Ahronot yesterday said war in the Gulf was "inevitable" and that Iraq would do everything in its power to drag Israel into

### WALLES TO SERVE Schools may

train teachers The government is considering plans to allow schools to train most of their own teachers. It believes that the academic standards of many student teachers, and the training they receive, is too

### King returns



Romania's former king Mich ael returned to his homeland Times today, Nicu Ceausescu, son of the executed dictator. explains how he tried to curb his parents' excesses.... Page 7 Leading article, page 9

### Benefit hope

Senior ministers believe that John Major's election as prime minister has secured the future of child benefit Page

## **Queen's anxiety**

In a sombre Christmas Day message, the Queen yesterday expressed her "deep and overriding anxiety" over the threat of war in the Middle EastPage

### Wings of change

Most East Germans have bought "winged end-of-year figures" at Christmas all their lives. This year, for the first time, they bought honest angels. But as the first Deutschmark Christmas passes, Anne McElvoy sees 1991 as the year when attitudes will harden ...... Page 8

### Players on trial

A record number of players were sent off last weekend. Professional footballers and club managers carry a responsibility for good behaviour which they have seemed reluc-.... Page 19 

INDEX

Births, marriages, deaths. Court & Social

strategic targets in Israel at the beginning of the war". But the former Israeli chief of staff Mordechai Gur said the Iraqi leader would be inviting certain destruction if he were so foolish as to open a "second

Mr Gur, a prominent Labour MP, told army radio that Iraq was already facing defeat by the allied force which had overwhelmingly superior air power. "From a professional military point of view, it would be sheer nonsense for Iraq to open an additional front against Israel while the US-led coalition stands against it. Even against Israel alone, Iraq has no chance to win a war. In a direct war, the state of Israel and the Israeli army would be stronger than the Iraqis, and Iraq would suffer a crashing defeat."

On Monday, Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister, said his country's army was "in a higher state of readiness and alert than usual", but he doubted whether Iraq could inflict serious damage on Israel, given the inaccuracy and limitations of its missiles.

Mr Arens also insisted that Israel had no intention of launching a pre-emptive strike. However Western experts believe Israel would not hesitate to hit Iraqi missile sites if it was sure the missiles were being prepared for an attack or fitted with chemical warheads, a process which takes several hours.

Asked to assess the danger of war, Mr Shamir said: "I would say the danger is very close. Our citizens know the Israeli army is alert and prepared." President Saddam's transparent aim was to try to split the anti-Iraq alliance by focusing Arab attenknow how to act with

Iraq continued its war of words yesterday, threatening to wipe out the American army, leaving only a few deranged soldiers. The al-Jumhuriyah newspaper said: Those who remain will be a few insane or semi-insane soldiers who had escaped the furnace of battle to tell generations about the harm inflicted

THE Israeli prime min- battle by "firing missiles at on them by Bush's insistence on aggression and his false pride and empty arrogance.

"He will come out of it with fatal wounds, a defeated army of dead soldiers, allies with toppled thrones, agents with chopped heads, and the Zionist entity will receive a share of punishment that will please the believers."

The Gulf confrontation dominated the Christian world's thoughts, with the Pope, the Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury all calling for peace in their Christmas messages.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia also appealed to President Saddam to avert the disaster of war in an address to the Gulf Co-operation Council summit in Doha. "We wish that (President Saddam), who was to us a brother, friend and ally, (should) know that the curtain is not yet drawn on the scorching war and that he can spare himself and his people its horror. It is braver to opt for peace than for war."

He said the Gulf countries had proved they could stand up to him, but could opt for reconciliation if President Saddam so chose.

The six-nation council reiterated its demand for an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and for Iraq to pay compensation for damage caused. Kuwaiti representatives at the meeting suggested that some Western forces should be asked to remain in the region for at least five years after the country had been liberated. Ahmed Jarallah, editor of the al-Seyassah newspaper, said: "It is no longer a sin that we keep US forces in our territory."

In Cairo, President Mubarak told reporters that Iraq helicopter yesterday made would be the big loser if war broke out. "The decision of one man will lead to the death of hundreds of thousands." And in London, Tom King, the defence secretary, said that President Saddam would be 'very severely beaten" if the military option were used.

Dread of war, page 5 Letters, page 9 Queen's message, page 11

"There will be no question

about the outcome."

## Gorbachev power strategy hits snag

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE Soviet parliament ap- he seeks, but he has an uphill and economic chaos.

islative body, voted to amend an article of the Soviet constitution to subordinate all organs of executive power to the president. It also approved creation of the post of vice-president, but it rejected a proposal to create a supreme state inspectorate, intended to ensure that Mr Gorbachev's decrees are carried out.

chance to secure all the powers

Mr Gorbachev still has a

proved new powers for Presi-struggle to persuade delegates dent Gorbachev yesterday, to accept the whole of his new but denied him some of the administrative structure, authority he sought to halt the which critics have described country's slide into political as a blueprint for dictatorship. The debate continues today The Congress of People's and after votes on all the Deputies, the highest leg- individual clauses, the whole package of constitutional change will be put to the vote. That leaves the possibility that Mr Gorbachev could recoup the extra authority he wants, by winning a required twothirds majority on the overall

> The Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, said his republic, Continued on page 18, col 2

West helps Moscow, page 6

Photographs, page 3 Gale damage, page 18 optimism after two years

## Royal buffeting: the Queen, the Queen Mother and Canon George Hall, rector of Sandringham church, being buffeted by high winds after attending Christmas Day service at the church. Queen's message, page 11 Fresh hope for Rushdie after embracing Islam

MES

who brought about Salman Rushdie's public conversion to Islam is today sending their second long-range rescue mission in two days, battling against Atlantic gales to reach itual leader, suggesting that a sailor badly injured when he the fatwa (religious decree) was swept through an anchor pronounced against the novelist's life by the late Ayatollah Khomeini should now be

London Weather Centre. It Hesham el-Essawy, chair-man of the Islamic Society for than the Promotion of Religious Tolerance, said yesterday: "Salman Rushdie has now terday had been feared lost from the 40,000-tonne Caribembraced the Islamic faith for the first time. That means bean Star, but was found clinging to the anchor chain in must be wiped clean and his past sins forgiven.

withdrawn.

"Some people are suggest-ing that Mr Rushdie has only issued such a statement now to save his skin," Dr el-Essawy said, "but I know that he is a any further agreements for man whose arm cannot be translation into other lanman whose arm cannot be twisted. What he says is what he believes. I also know that his conversion was not accomplished yesterday, but two months ago. Now it is time to



Rushdie: in new mood of

withdrawn."

Mr Rushdie's declaration of faith came after a meeting on telegrams to President Rafsan- Christmas Eve with Muhamjani of Iran and Ayatollah mad Ali Mahgoub, the Egypference after issuing his state-(religious endowments), and that this is the most optimistic other senior Muslim figures.

In a statement issued after the meeting, Mr Rushdie said British diplomats in Tehran to he accepted that there was no God but Allah and that Muhammad was his last prophet. It continued: "I state that I do not agree with any statement in my novel The Satanic Verses uttered by any of the characters who insult the Prophet Muhammad or under Islamic law the slate who cast aspersions on Islam or upon the authenticity of the Holy Koran, or who reject the

divinity of Allah. "I undertake not to publish the paperback edition of The Satanic Verses or to permit guages while any risk of further offence exists. I will continue to work for a better understanding of Islam in the world as I have always attempted to in the past."

Mr Rushdie has been in hiding since Ayatollah Khomeini pronounced his death sentence 22 months ago for blasphemies contained in The Satanic Verses.

The author's public declaration of faith did not meet with an immediate welcome in Iran or among extremist Muslim leaders in Bradford.

The Iranian news agency reported Mr Rushdie's state-

ment, but one newspaper, Abrar, dismissed it bluntly, declaring that the fatwa was irrevocable. In Bradford, Mohammed Siddique, leader of the Muslim Youth Move-

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Harley Street dentist that the fatwa will be ment of Great Britain, said Mr Rushdie could never be forgiven. Mr Rushdie, speaking by

> telephone to a news conmoment in the last two years." ◆ Cooper visit: Iran allowed pay a pre-Christmas visit to Roger Cooper, the British businessman who has been held there since 1985, Whitehall sources said yesterday.

> > Man in the News, page 2 Leading article, page 9

## THE TIMES THIS WEEK

On the tip of



The best antidote to seasonal sluggishness is The Times quiz of the year, which offers prizes of *Times* atlases to the first five correct enti les opened PAGE 13

### **Getting out** to the shows

Geoff Brown on the film releases, Jeremy Kingston on holiday shows with children in mind and Benedict Nightingale on great theatre nights in 1990

### Recovery: the complete guide

The Times offers some help with the complete guide to winding down after the pressures of winding up

**TOMORROW** 

### What happened, and to whom

Margaret Thatcher was far from the only politician for whom it was a funny old world in 1990. George Hill reviews the highlights and lowlights and Sara Driver provides a

month-by-month reminder of an extraordinary year FRIDAY

### Do wake me before it's over

There are those who have trouble staying awake on New Year's Eve. Victoria McKee suggests some sensible ways to keep alert SATURDAY

Quality journalism six days a week: make a habit of The Times with a regular order

## Can you problem faster than Shakespeare?

FREE ( ) MAN ) FORTY CLOUD ( ) GALE **CLOVEN** ZITHER ( ) HARP

### **HOW TO SOLVE THIS PUZZLE**

Replace the first letter of the left hand word and the last letter of the right hand word with another letter to form two other words. Then write the new letter in the brackets, to find something close to Shakespeare's heart.

If you can solve this puzzle, you could be eligible to join Mense. The High IO Society.
Cut out the coupon for further details and a copy of the self-administered test.
To: MENSA, FREEPOST, WOLVERHAMPTON WVZ 1BR. (No stemp required)

## In Dublin's fair city, the bars are so scanty

Helicopter

in second

long-range

rescue

By Lin Jenkins

THE crew of an RAF Sea King

Yesterday's gales brought

severe-weather warnings from

said today's winds would be

The seaman saved yes-

heavy seas on the ship's hull.

He had a broken thigh and

For Wing Commander Jo-

sephine Kingston, a service

doctor with the crew, the

hazardous mission in force

eight gales was only her sec-

Her first was on Sunday,

when a badly injured woman

sailor was winched from a

Soviet container ship 300

miles southwest of Ireland by

the crew from RAF Brawdy,

Yesterday's rescue was by

the same crew of Flight

Lieutenant Mike Bouldon, co-

pilot Steve Rovery, winch and

radar operator Warrant Of-

ficer Pete Williams and

Winchman Sergeant Mark

Stevens. An RAF Nimrod

from St Mawgan in Cornwall, which located the Liberian-

registered tanker about 200

Continued on page 18, col 7

miles west of the Irish coast.

more blustery

chain hole.

esterday's,

and rescue.

southwest Wales.

By ROBIN YOUNG

STUDENTS of Irish literature will be taken aback to learn that Dublin is desperately short of pubs. Although the Irish capital appears to casual visitors to have a bar on almost every street corner, and a literary tradition founded largely on the consumption of alcohol, figures prove that Dublin is a deprived area for drinkers. There are fewer bars per head of nopulation in Dublin than anywhere

else in the Republic of Ireland. The Irish justice minister, Ray Burke, whose department is responsible for new public house licences, has so far resisted demands to issue more.

Those campaigning to increase the number of places where Dubliners can take their drink say that only 775 of the Irish Republic's 11,019 pubs are in the Dublin area, which is easily the most densely populated part of the country. The political campaign for more liberal licensing along the Liffey is led by Pat Upton, an Irish Labour party member of the Senate, the upper house of the

republic's parliament. Mr Upton's campaign fuels tap-room controversy in the bar of Buswell's hotel, conveniently sited opposite Leinster House, the seat of the Irish parliament. There it is possible to find even cabinet ministers at the bar, quaffing prodigiously and holding forth on the issues of the day in shrill tones.

Mr Upton, who backs his stance with statistics, says: "There are not enough pubs in Dublin to make for meaningful competition, particularly in the suburbs. The figures show there are 200 adults for each public house in Ireland, but this rises to 1,500 adults for every pub in Dublin. In some suburbs there are up to 20,000 adults per pub."

competition has led to drink prices in Dublin rising at a higher rate than Ireland's currently low inflation. Over the five years from 1985, inflation was 18.6 per cent, but the cost of a pint in Dublin's bars rose by 28 per cent.

No new seven-day licences have been granted in the Irish capital since regulations were tightened 90 years ago to curb the formerly spiralling number of public houses in the city. That has meant good business for licence-holders, but an expensive life for drinkers.

On Saturday nights, some publicans have to employ staff to keep the number of customers entering their bars within the bounds of comfort. When pubs come on to the market, aspiring landlords often pay well over £1 million.

Landlords' lament, page 2

## Tenancy deals push pub landlords into a winter of discontent

THE livelihood of thousands of public house landlords is at risk because of the economic recession and new tenancy agreements and prices introduced by the brewers, according to the National Licensed Victuallers' Association (NVLA).

The association itself has been criticised by many of its members for not fighting the new measures introduced by the brewers, but John Overton, its chief executive, said that the blame for the pressures on the industry should be placed on the government and

He said the difficulties have arisen from conditions imposed after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) report into the brewing industry, designed to more competition and, in turn, keep prices down. "We have spent many months negotiating and fighting to put the case for our members and, in many instances we have achieved results," he said.

"In the case of the MMC, we have taken issue with the brewers over interim rent increases linked to the stocking of guest beers, and prevented such rises. But, when it comes to the normal rent reviews, it is difficult to quantify what proportion of the increases are due to guest beers.

"In all these cases, we can only go so far. As the industry goes through a revolution, many licensees are finding it difficult to

ope."
Of the association's 18,000 members, an estimated 5,000

ing to one brewery source. Many young couples who moved into the licensed trade for the first time under leasing schemes offered by some breweries are

facing financial ruin. Their plight is so bad in some areas that the NVLA has been told by local authorities that housing can no longer be offered to families who have had to quit public houses in which they also lived because they could not do enough business to cover the costs of their leases.

The big brewers, who have been made to reduce their number of tied houses, have carried out detailed reviews of their estates, and only the most profitable and best-run pubs are being kept on, with the others sold off. The tenants of many of

these public houses are, however. being offered new leases that they cannot afford, the NVLA said, and the pubs are becoming managed houses.

The association added that many new public house chains have been formed, with the brewers taking a 14.9 per cent stake - the mimimum limit imposed by the MMC conditions -and a sest on the board. In that way, they can promote their own products in the new chains.

The new leases give the landlords more protection than they had in the past but, according to the NVLA, the properties being offered have not been properly maintained by the brewers in the past, and, under the new leases, the tenant becomes responsible for all repairs and decoration. The association said: "The brewers are not anxious to see so many tenanted houses because, under the new government measures to liberalise pubs and give the public a wider and more competitive choice, these tenanted houses can offer guest beers whether the brewery likes it

The brewers, however, say that the leases offer stability and are straightforward, and that they have had a good response to

The Office of Fair Trading has already investigated complaints that some of the new leases being offered are being sent out with letters recommending the choice of "guest beers" that the landlords should consider. Publicans had complained that the government's intention to break up the monopoly of the "big five"

greater choice was being seriously

The NVLA has alleged that the brewers are so determined to keep their 82 per cent share of the beer market that they are putting pressure on their tied publicans to stop them selling guest beers.

Public house tenants have been able to sell guest beers since May. when the trade and industry department's Tied Estates Orders came into effect. They followed last year's MMC report on brewing, which concluded that a "complex monopoly situation"

According to the NLVA, however, only a minority of tenants have started selling a guest beer because they are worried about repercussions. The relationship between tenants and brewers was

brewers and offer consumers now open warfare, it added. The Small Independent Brewers' Association (SIBA), which represents 160 brewers, said it had received about a dozen complaints from members who had tried to sell beer to tied houses. The owners of Larkins Brewery. near Tunbridge Wells, sold one £50 barrel of beer to a public house tenant, it said, but was then sent a £300 invoice from the brewer that owned the pub for the use of its hand pump.

Bass reluctantly put more than £600 million worth of public houses on the market for sale or lease after the investigation into the brewing industry. The company has 7,240 public houses, and has invited offers for 2,680, most of which are run by tanants.

Dublin dearth, page 1

## Child benefit thaw signals end to annual battles

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government is expected the spending of extra money to give more generous treat- next year, particularly so close ment to child benefit next year to an election. amid strong indications that the annual battles to prevent it

being frozen are over. Major as prime minister has secured the future of the benefit, which is paid to seven million mothers. In October Tony Newton, the social security secretary, brought to an end the complete three-year freeze on child benefit when he won from the Treasury a deal allowing it to be increased by £1 a week for the first-born

In the inevitable review in preparation for next summer's remain a strong element in our ministers are optimistic that the payment for other childwhich has remained at £7.25 a week for three years, will also be increased. Mr former social security minister, and his colleagues are confident that he will sanction



Newton: tough battle with

Mr Newton fought a tough battle with the Treasury this eing frozen are over. year by securing a partial Senior ministers believe uprating in the benefit, costing that the election of John £260million. His more important achievement was to secure from Margaret Thatcher a commitment to retain child benefit. The successive freezing of the benefit led many MPs to believe that it would eventually be replaced. However, Mr Newton, in a sentence agreed in advance with Mrs Thatcher, said when announcing the increase on October 24

public spending round, senior policies for family support". In next year's review the the Conservative party's fam- year. Major is a long-time supporter ily credentials. Another of child benefit and was a possibility is that the move could be linked to other changes in the tax and benefit system. That could involve increasing child benefit all round but counting it as new frigates.

that child benefit "is and will

crease payments across the agree on the hull design and board but to lower the cut-off point. Once a child had of dissension was a demand by reached 11, for instance, pay- Italy for a larger galley to meet ments would cease.

from office is believed likely by senior MPs to lessen the influence of right-wingers who want to see child benefit abandoned and the money used instead for families need-



No fixed abode: the Dogs' Home, Battersea, giving temporary shelter yesterday to an abandoned dalmatian rescued in London on Christmas eve

## Anglo-French link Trachoma likely on frigate

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT BRITAIN and France look set of an Anglo-French collabo-

British and French officials

are to draw up a report on each

navy's specific requirements.

Royal Navy sources said that

provided the requirements

matched, they would move on

to project definition in the

42 replacement to enter ser-

vice in about 2001. Col-

laboration with the French

would save money: the Royal

Navy's proposed 12 frigates

would be built at British

shipyards, but the savings will

come through shared research

A senior navy source said

yesterday: "The French want a

warship to protect their

nuclear carrier from air attack,

whereas we need a new frigate

with several roles, not just air

flexible hull. But I think we're

coming closer now to a hull

design."

ramme is agreed it will be the

first time that Britain will

have signed a collaborative

project for a warship. At-

tempts made with the French

and the Belgians in the 1970s

came to nothing. The am-

bitious NFR90 project was to

have involved the US. Can-

ada, France, Italy, Germany, Spain and The Netherlands.

For the Anglo-French pro-

management system, the over-

all command and control

network for the frigate.

and development costs.

Britain wants the first Type

middle of next year.

to collaborate on building a option of linking the benefit to frigate for the late 1990s, after inflation will be considered as the collapse of a £12 billion a means of further boosting eight-nation programme last

> The Royal Navy needs to replace its fleet of 12 Type 42 air defence destroyers with a wants between four and six

taxable income for working mothers, helping those who NFR90 project fell apart when Another option is to in- none of the nations could its sailors' spaghetti and pizza Mrs Thatcher's departure needs. The French also wanted more storage space for

wine bottles. Since the Royal Navy requires a reasonable storage area for beer kegs, the dif-ferences in drinking habits is not expected to get in the way

## vaccine a step nearer By NIGEL HAWKES

A VACCINE against the same number of divisions in world's main cause of blindness has come closer as a result of research work at ical school. The organism Chlamydia trachomatis crat leader, managed 39.71 per causes millions of cases of the disease trachoma thoughout

the developing world. Attempts in the 1960s to produce a vaccine against the organism failed, but now Mike Ward and Southampton colleagues have used genetic engineering to produce a vaccouraging results in rabbits

They identified the gene in the Chlamydia trachomatis organism responsible for constructing the organism's outer membrane protein, the shell of material that normally surrounds it. Using genetic engineering, they inserted this gene into a bacterium and produced copies of the major outer membrane protein.

This protein stimulates the production of antibodies after infection by Chlamydia trachomatis. Used as a vaccine, the protein triggers antibody production but cannot harm the recipient because it is only the wrapping, not the works. The earlier vaccines, based on whole Chlamydia, created more serious infections in those receiving them than in controls who did not.

The Southampton thinking it is seeing real Chlamydia when it is seeing only the organism's overcoat In rabbits it produced high levels of antibodies which attacked real Chlamydia.

## Voting secrets of a House divided

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major and Neil Kinnock voted in exactly the the Commons in the last parliamentary year. They took part, however, in fewer than a third of those called. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democent of votes and Margaret

Thatcher 16.81. Mr Major's record of 31.59 per cent shows him voting in fewer divisions during his year as Chancellor than all but the year traveli on the party speechmaking circuit, took part in 24.64 per cent of votes, while Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary who was often abroad, partici-

pated in 24.93. Of the shadow cabinet, only Roy Hattersley, the deputy leader, voted in fewer divisions than Mr Kinnock.

The most assiduous cabinet participant by far was the trade secretary, Peter Lilley, who voted in 72.17 per cent of the divisions. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, scored 60.87 per cent, and Tony Newton, the social security secretary, 60.58. In the shadow cabinet, the

CABINET: Peter Lilley 72.17; SHADOW CABINET: Margaret Kenneth Clarke 60.87; Tony Beckett 59.42; Barry Jones Newton 60.58; Ian Lang 56.23; 58.55; Ann Clwyd 57.10; Robin Michael Howard 52.75; Kenneth Baker 51.30; David Hunt 53.33; Donald Dewar 52.46; 49.56; John MacGregor 48.99; Frank Dobson 52.46; John MacGregor 48.99; Fran 49.86; John MacGregor 48.99; David Melfor 44.93; Chris Patten 44.96; Norman Lamont 39.71; Malcolm Rifided 37.97; Peter Brooke 36.23; William

most avid voter was Margaret Beckett, who participated in 59.42 per cent of the divisions. Barry Jones, the shadow Welsh secretary, took part in 58.55, per cent and Ann Clwyd, the overseas aid spokesman, in 57.10 per cent. Top participant was the Labour backbencher Dennis Skinner on 97.68 per cent, followed by two Tory whips, Sydney Chapman and Irvine Patnick on 94.20 and 92.75 respectively. The MPs who three of his cabinet colleagues, voted in the fewest divisions Tom King had the same rate. were Sam Galbraith, the Lab-Michael Heseltine, who spent our health spokesman who time, Cyril Smith, the Rochdale Liberal (4.64 per cent),

> Edward Heath (7.25 per cent). The records have been analysed by Campaign Information, whose survey covered 345 divisions between November 1989 and November 1990. The average for Conservative MPs was 56.87 participation in votes. Labour averaged 51.52 and Liberal Democrat MPs 51.73.

and the former prime minister

Some MPs have to travel more than others, and some have "pairs" with whom they can make an agreement to miss a division without penalising their party.

49.86; John MacGregor 48.99; Frank Dobson 52.46: John David Mellor 44.93; Chris Patten 44.06; Norman Lamont 49.86; Gordon Brown 48.12: 39.71; Malcolm Rifidind 37.97; Michael Meacher 44.35; Jack Waldegrave 34.49; John Wake-ham 32.75; John Gurmer 32.75; Tom King 31.59; John Smith 38.55; Jack Cunningham 32.75; Tom King 31.59; John Major 31.59; Douglas Hurd 24.93; Michael Heseltine 24.64. Hattersley 31.01.

## Search for baby heart hindered by holiday

SURGEONS searching for a heart donor for Christy Strachan said yesterday that the week-old baby was in a critical but stable condition.

The international search for a heart is being conducted through the UK Transplant Service, based in Bristol, but staff said it was difficult to trace a suitable organ because of the holiday and because the child was so small.

The boy is on a life-support machine at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, where he was taken when a serious heart defect was diagnosed shortly after birth. His mother, Tracey Strachan, aged 28, a legal executive, and father March Strachan, a bookseller, spent yesterday at

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the bedside. Gary Crellin, duty administrator at Great Ormond Street, said that Christy's condition was fairly common and transplants were often carried out on babies. Thirty per cent of the heart surgery carried out at the hospital was on new-

born infants. The baby had arived from his home in New Barnet, north London, on Saturday and was doing well in hospital "Christy has had another good night and is stable. There is a consultant cardio-thoracle surgeon on standby in case a suitable heart is found."

In The Netherlands, a threeday-old child was also in desperate need of a transplant.

## **Tourist on** Tube charge

Dina LeTarte, aged 29, of she stabbed two men with a pen-knife in self-defence when they attacked her on a London Underground platform, appeared in court on Monday charged with grevious bodily

Mrs LeTarte was conditionally bailed to come back to City of London magistrates at Guidhall on January 2 with the men she is accused of stabbing. The men face assault charges.

Mrs LeTarte, staying in

Forest Hill, north London, who was due to fly home on December 5, was ordered to report to Lewisham police station between 5pm and 7pm each Friday as part of her bail conditions. Magistrates also continued her £2,500 surety. Her lawyer, Bruce Cooper. successfully appealed for reporting restrictions to be lifted to bring witnesses forward.

Fears for driver

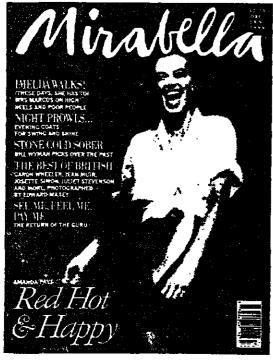
Kent police have issued an urgent appeal to the public to help to trace Graham Gillham, aged 36, a van driver from Shoreham, near Sevenoaks. Kent, who disappeared depressed and suicidal."

Denise Lyell, aged 33, a skydiver from London, was killed when her parachute failed to open after she jumped from 12,000ft, police at Zephyrhills, Florida, said yesterday. Ms Lyell, who had made more than 200 jumps and was on holiday, landed in

Dr cl-Essawy also realised that Mr Video shopping

Shopping trollies are being to bombard shoppers with advertisements while they buy. The Video Carts, developed in the United States, will he in 600 stores by the end of 1991, responding sensors in the store to advertise particu-Rushdie deal, page I lar products as shoppers ap-

## ON SALE NOW



Imelda Marcos: **Exclusive Interview** 

Bill Wyman comes clean

### posal, the two navies will elect different missiles but from the same group, called the Family of Air Missile nique fools the body into Systems. The navy source said the most important hurdle would be the choice of combat



Plus best New Looks

Nirabella



DR HESHAM el-Essawy was one of the first Muslim leaders to protest against the publication of The Sajanic Verses, but he has always said that Ayotollah Khomeini's fatwa (religious decree) was against the principles of the Koran.

He took part in a television debate with Salman Rushdie about his novel two weeks before the fatwa was pronounced. "If he had paid more attention and trusted me then," Dr el-Essawy said yesterday, "all this might have been

He is a Harley Street dentist and a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. who came to London from Egypt in 1970. Twelve years later he founded the Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance, of which he describes himself as "the paying chairman", because he was concerned at the amount of abuse and misrepresentation Islam received in the West.

The society brings together Islamic scholars and community leaders. Dr el-Essawy says he makes no claim to represent British Muslims, but adds that some of his society's members are themselves leaders of community organisations with large followings.

He describes his beliefs as "anti-

fanatical". He is outspokenly contemp-



extremist Muslim leaders

tuous of the standing of some of the extremist leaders whose vitriolic condemnations of Mr Rushdie have attracted most attention in the British press. "These people have very little understanding of Islam and no following beyond the proportion of the population you might normally expect to find who are mentally unbalanced to some de-gree," he said yesterday. "The press

should not report these extremists as if from home on December 19 they were leading a fanatical army of and has not since contacted Muslim militants. The truth is that the his wife and two children. A great majority of Muslims in this country police spokesman said: "He is are patient, law-abiding, gentle people."

Dr el-Essawy has been pursuing his own examination of Mr Rushdie since | Skydiver killed secing the author's interview with Melvyn Bragg on The South Bank Show in September. The author remarked: "God knows when I will see Bombay again." Dr el-Essawy asked whether that reference to a deity was a Freudian slip. In a series of telephone calls that followed, the dentist established that the author, while saying that he had no formal beliefs, did harbour religious feelings. Acknowledging that he was not as secular as he had led some people to Aviation Authority is holding often spoken of a God-shaped hole

Rushdie had come to Britain at the age of 13 and had no Islamic education. He fitted with electronic screens could not, therefore, the dentist argued. be condemned as an apostate since he had not previously been a believer. "What I have been doing," Dr el-

Essawy said yesterday, "is to help Salman Rushdie explain himself."

Leading article, page 9 preach them.

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Police to inv Diector of 5 -

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Ghost brings By HARVEY ELLIST

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Le had been allocated Toom 65 in hotel. A wing of the St George notel. Mont Tesside airport adina regularly by airline beding a night away from and made the less and lay

od walting for it to cook which heat is recorded in The heat has a special of the British and hot even the ball of even the b ad hot even closed his eyes ad hined to the floor. The light could see no one. He

ALAN WELLER

# Man is killed in pub brawl after taking wrong glass

A MAN was stabbed to death friends were involved in a fight while celebrating on Christmas Eve after mistakenly drinking from the wrong glass. He was one of a number of people murdered during holiday brawls which left scores of people, including policemen, injured.

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Police named the dead man as Kenneth Maclean, aged 26, who was knifed during a argument in the crowded pub-lic bar of the Old Stillage public house in Woking, Surrey. He was dead on arrival at St Peter's hospital,

Det Chief Inspector Derek Det Chief Inspector Derek had head injuries and bruising Short said: "We believe it to his body." started as a result of some drinking from someone else's beer mug. There was a mild altercation and then things quietened down but the row suddently started up again and the man was stabbed through the heart with a knife."

Mr Maclean had recently arrived in Surrey from Scotland in search of work and found a job as a labourer. Police last night were questioning two men.

On Christmas Eve a woman was shot dead at short range with a double barrel shotgun as she opened the door of her home in Lordswood, Chatham, Kent. Elsa Barber, aged 42, was shot just as the family were about to go to bed after celebrations at the house. Her husband was in the front room. Kent police said that Balvinder Singh Chagger, aged 26, of Lordswood, Chatham, had been charged with murder and would appear before magistrates tomorrow.

Police are investigating whether the death of Gurcharun Singh Mohail, aged 41, who died in hospital on Sunday after being beaten while at a bus stop, had a racial motive. Mr Mohail, of Manor Park, north London. was found critically ill at his home by relatives and died shortly afterwards in hospital. A post-mortem examination disclosed that he died from haemorrhaging after a blow to

A man aged 24 died on Christmas Eve when he fell through a plate glass window in Derby city centre. Police believe he had been out celebrating when he crashed ation says today. the window Debenhams store in Victoria Street just after 10.30pm. He died in Derbyshire Royal

Infirmary. A teenager was last night critically ill in Bradford Royal Infirmary after being stabbed in a city centre brawl on Christmas eve. Police, who are

through the heart during a dispute with two men before he was stabbed in the chest.

A man aged 58 was found murdered in a police cell during a Christmas Day check at Hammersmith police station. The man, who had been picked up for being drunk, was sharing a cell with another man arrested separately for

the same reason.

Police said: "They were placed in the same cell where drunken prisoners are placed to sober up. The men were the cell's sole occupants. The man was found dead during a routine check by an officer. He

Two policemen who tackled suspected burglar have undergone hospital tests to see if they contracted Aids from the man after he bit them as they tried to make an arrest.

Inspector George Waddington and two off-duty police constables, who live in a flat at Forest Gate, southeast London, chased the man down the road after watching him leave a neighbour's house. The man bit the inspector on the thumb and one of the constables on the thigh. Both men were punched in the head during the struggle.

A Samaritan who intervened to stop a girl being molested as she walked home early on Christmas Day was serious in hospital last night after being stabbed in the chest and arms.

The man, whom police have not named to protect him, was attacked after stepping in to stop a man abusing a girl as she walked in Oxford Road, Reading The attacker turned on the man and stabbed him with a knife before running off.



istmas wrapping: scurves and thick coats come into their own yesterday for hardy walkers as a rough sea crashes into the Brighton ma (above) and the wind catches at worshippers (below) gathering at Canterbury cathedral for the morning service. Gale damage, page 18



## **Buyers of faulty sales** items 'can get refund'

By NICHOLAS WATT

to their description.

BARGAIN hunters who el- in the sales are breaking the bow their way through the law. If items are broken sales should be careful not to shoppers are entitled to their damage any goods or fittings money back as if they had as shops can claim against bought them at the full price. them, the Consumers' Associ- All items have to correspond

prove that the stores have sale goods, particularly if they been negligent they would not are marked "shop-soiled" or crush by goods toppling over, responsible for defects if they local yachtsmen broke the they can sue the store.

Consumer Association law- customers spending more house off the Isle of Wight yer, also points out that shops than £100 to pay with a credit who, like the coastguard and displaying notices saying that card, because a refund for air-sea rescue, fire, police and not releasing the name of the customers cannot claim a faulty goods can be claimed ambulance services, cannot istrative matters. More sur- houses hired extra staff to man aged 18, said he and two refund on faulty goods bought from the credit card company.

hundreds of thousands of others went to work as normal Lin Jenkins writes). Those in farming, totalling

service were among those for whom Christmas day of rest.

The delivery by lifeboat of a had been pointed out to the routine, however, for the three Keith Richards, a senior buyer. Mr Richards advises keepers of the Needles light-

Escaping roast turkey for a day at work WHILE most people in maids at the Dogs' Home, petrol stations opened yes. The electricity industry exper-Britain settled down yesterday Battersea, cared for their terday, staffed by volunteers. iences a big surge in demand to turkey and television, charges, and at zoos and safari Some corner shops also for power on Christmas Day, parks throughout the country only the office workers had

> organised a quiz, with a celebrations. European trip as the prize, for the festive period.

the day off.

and homes for children and lunch to repair storm damage, all day to see whether a the elderly were also at work if Car breakdown services also snowflake falls: an event that their jobs involved the care of operated, with a depleted staff, people rather than admin- but many popular local public new year for the bookies. istrative matters. More sur- houses hired extra staff to

choice, and many taxi drivers. who have reported a lean British Telecom had a Christmas run-up period in unison after the main telemore than 3 per cent of the skeleton staff working as op- spite of the drink-drive cam- vision film ends. It operated working population, and oth- erators and an emergency- paigns, made the most of the yesterday with the usual staff ers in the national health only directory enquiries premium rates before settling and emergency repair teams service. British Airways down to enjoy their own on standby to deal with power

The bad weather gave their ground crews who, like plumbers and builders a business as usual, as it was for be liable. If they are hurt in the "seconds", as shops were not bird and pudding donated by the aircraft crews, work over Christmas bonus, too, because the weather forecasters and he festive period. they could charge high rates the person who stands on top Staff in prisons, hospitals for leaving their Christmas of the London Weather Centre

iences a big surge in demand for power on Christmas Day, opened for part of the day, by as people throughout the choice, and many taxi drivers, country cook a big meal and then turn their kettles on in cuts and line damage

For parts of the media it was would signal a less prosperous

### **Drinking** drivers told of walking hazards

By A STAFF REPORTER

MOTORISTS who have heeded the government drinkdrive advertisement campaign have been issued with a further warning to avoid drinking and walking.

Road safety experts believe that one result of the success of campaigns aimed at drivers is that people may endanger themselves by drinking and then going on foot. Hampshire County Council's road safety panel is concerned about the growing number of pedestrians involved in road accidents over Christmas.

Alastair Gibson, the panel's chairman, said: "While it is good news that more and more people are leaving the car at home and walking to the pub, there are still problems. Pedestrians always come off

worse if they argue with cars."

Meanwhile police continued their drive against drunken drivers. In Sussex police had breath-tested 838 motorists in Christmas period up to 6am yesterday, with 61 (or 7 per cent) proving positive, against Il per cent last

The number of drivers failing breath tests in Lincolnshire was up on the total for the same period last year. Between 6am on Wednesday December 19 and Christmas Eve, 431 drivers were tested, with 31 proving positive. Last year 420 drivers were tested, with 25 positive.

### Arson at school

Police believe child arsonists started a Christmas Eve fire at Highcliffe school, Dorset, that destroyed dozens of music instruments and caused £200,000 damage.

### Bright sparks

More than 50 parents on Teesside who had overlooked vital ingredient for a happy Christmas took advantage of an offer by a local commercial radio station to supply batteries for toys and torches.

### Silver lining

Gavin and Craig Preston, aged seven, woke vesterday to find burglars had stolen their presents. But police, traders and inmates of a young offenders' institution in Co Durham raised nearly £400, and the twins, from Bishop Auckland, were taken to a

### Healthy recipe

To revive flagging spirits, the National Trust and the Ramblers' Association are holding more than 100 walks of between three and nine miles from today until New Year's Martin Jacques, page 8 | day in England and Wales.

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## Police to investigate cathedral losses

By Peter Victor

THE Director of Public Prosecutions has approved police investigations into the Lincoln cathedral's ill-fated years later, is there such enterprise to display the Magna Carta at World Expo 1988 in Australia. Whether any prosecutions result will depend on an examination of legal and ecclesiastical circumstances.

The police are unlikely to investigate events in Australia. Their enquiries will centre on the use of £90,000 from a Magna Carta bank account to fund the project. They are also likely to consider whether the chapter was authorised to approve spending hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Several questions arise from the venture. How did it man-

animosity between Canon



Hardy: has compiled a 535-point report

age to spend more than Rex Davis, the organiser of 1988, which showed the total the exhibit, and the Very Rev cost of the trip would be Brandon Jackson, the dean chosen by 10 Downing Street cluding A\$680,000 (£870,000), inclusions? Why, two and half years later, is there such cathedral?

Robert Hardy, the Bishop of Admonition and Award, was May 2 this year.

found to total £938 despite

These questions and some would raise A\$1,104,000 to of the answers lie in a 535- A\$1,808,000. The bishop

point report by the Right Rev pointed out in his admonition that this left a potential loss of Lincoln. The report, called an up to A\$736,000 (£350,000). "It was clear that members of compiled after a church court the chapter did not appreciate hearing held by the bishop on the possible significance of May 2 this year. this," he said.

that the contents of a heavy costs of the venture. Had it centre's breeding station as wooden collection box placed not, losses would have topped part of a non-violent camon the exhibition stand £600,000. As it was, losses paign against Colin Blake-throughout the exhibit were totalled £80,775. Mr Jackson more, Waynsiete Professor of 900,000 visitors to the stand. bishop and four resident can-The bishop's report is also ons, it is in the hands of the years ago, but yesterday's raid critical of costings produced police. I know no more than did not involve animals under by Canon Davis in January what is in the admonition." his care.

### Cats freed in protest

EXPERTS believe that 60 breeding cats, stolen and set free by members of the Animal Liberation Front during a Christmas Day raid, will not survive in the open for long because their immune system is not strong.

The attack on a cattery run by Oxford university at Nuneham Courtenay, Oxford-shire, is believed to be the start of a new campaign by the The bishop concluded that it was "wholly unacceptable" In the end World Expo agifront. It said that 60 cats had it was "wholly unacceptable" reed to waive £579,550 of the said: "It is now between the Physiology. He was the sub-bishop and four resident can ject of the front's attention

## IT MUST BE TIME FOR THE ALFRED DUNHILL SALE.



SALE STARTS DECEMBER 28TH.



Visit Alfred Dunbill at 30 Duke Street St James's, Burlington Arcade and 5 Sloane Street.

## Ghost brings air crew down to earth with a bump

By HARVEY ELLIOTT AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE senior airline steward was tired. It had been a hard day looking after passengers on the British Midland service between Teesside and London and now all he wanted was a

cup of tea and bed. He had been allocated room 65 in the west wing of the St George hotel, 150 yards from Teesside airport terminal and used regularly by airline crews spending a night away from

The steward made the tea and lay on his bed waiting for it to cool. What happened next is recorded in The Log, official magazine of the British Airline Pilots Association.

"He had not even closed his eyes when he was violently rolled from the bed and pinned to the floor. The light was on and he could see no one. He

struggled vainly against the terrific force holding him down but was

unable to rise. "The weight pressing down over the whole of his body left him gasping for breath. He describes the sensation as similar to drowning. In panic he tried to call for help but no sound came from his lips. After a period he estimates to have been between one and two minutes, the weight was lifted from his body and everything returned to normal." The steward had become yet another victim of the Ghost of Teesside.

So many crews staying in the hotel's west wing reported similar strange experiences that Captain Barney Concannon, one of British Midland's most senior and levelheaded pilots, decided to investigate further. He had a particular incentive: the same thing happened to him. He said that as he was trying to cases, shadowy figures, flying objects

sleep in room 62, "I felt a heavy, cold pressure on both lower legs, as if someone or something was sitting on them. From the knees down my legs felt encased in ice."

Eventually, he wrote: "Using the most authoritative voice I could muster I told the presence in no uncertain terms to go away. Not the actual words I used but a close

enough approximation.

"The oppressive weight immediately left my legs and the temperature of the room increased." Within days of asking if others had had similar experiences Captain Concannon said he was inundated with similar stories, ten of which he repeated in the magazine.

All involve rooms in the west wing and all reported the same experience of cold, a pressing feeling on part or even all of the body and, in some

and even "a high-pitched, inhuman laugh." Captain Concannon said: "I have always had an open mind about ghosts. Yet so many people - all ] experienced, level-headed crew members — have had similar experiences that I had to believe that something beyond our normal understanding is there and that what I have been told is the truth. I have tried to find a logical, scientific explanation and failed."

He researched the files of the Ministry of Defence until he found a report of a Meteor fighter crash in 1951. Flying Officer Raymond Thomas Norman, aged 33, from the Advanced Flying School, in trying to take off from what is now Teesside airport, crashed into the ground floor of the west wing of the officers' mess, killing Flying Officer Norman. The officers' mess is now the St George

## A mission to spread faith across the land

IN CHURCHES throughout churches is semantic: the the country, the focus of Pope began talk of a Decade by the main churches in Decade of Evangelisation

In nearly every Anglican dynamic missionary emphadiocese, special services are sis, going beyond care and planned for the sixth of nurture to "proclamation January. In Guildford, a and service". The Bishop of vigil and celebration is planned in the cathedral the the Church of England's previous night. In Win- Board for Mission and previous night. In Win-Board for Mission and chester Cathedral, leaders of Unity, the Right Rev Keith Sutton, said: "Evangelism is the local Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist and United Reformed Churches will sign a covenant to work more person-to-person way. closely together.

The Archbishop of Canter-bury, Dr Robert Runcie, set the tone for the decade in the Anglican church during his last presidential address at the General Synod last month. "The need for the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ is as clear as ever. There is much sin and much wickedness, which cries out for his healing and forgiving

The difference between the Catholic Decade and that being organised by other honesty with which he wres-

worship this year will be as of Evangelisation in 1982 much on the Feast of the and proclaimed the Catholic Epiphany as on Christmas decade in 1988. The An-Day. Epiphany, 12 days after glican bishops at the 1988 Christmas, is the date chosen Lambeth Conference called for the last ten years to the Britain to launch the Decade 2,000th anniversary of of Evangelism or, in the case Christ's birth to be marked of the Roman Catholics, the in a special way. The conference called for a shift to a Lichfield and chairman of

> the communicating of the good news of our Lord in a I see evangelisation as applying the Christian faith to all departments of life." One puzzle that surprised evangelical churchmen as the decade approached has been the above-average increase - 2 per cent - in church attendance in Durham, a bastion of the oldfashioned liberalism that is increasingly under attack from some evangelicals. Bishop Sutton said: "While I do not agree with everything he is going round all our deaneries encouraging our parishes to share faith." the Bishop of Durham says I do think we must respect the

The main churches in Britain start a decade of evangelism in the new year. It is aimed at strengthening churches and spreading the gospel, not just increasing church membership. Not all Christians, however, endorse the campaign. Ruth Gledhill reports in the first of two articles

tles with the questions." The Bishop of Sheffield, the Right Rev David Lunn. That thesis is supported by said the idea came to him as the results of a survey in another northern diocese. A he considered what the church should do in the last Bradford diocesan survey on the decade has shown that decade of the century. He the largest group who would saw no reason to change plans made before the Lamaccept labels in the church described themselves as "libbeth Conference. erals". The survey showed 81 per cent of the laity supported the decade, but most eschewed churchman-

The Southwell diocese, in Nottinghamshire, launched its decade in July. The Rev Paul Morris, adviser in evanship labels, preferring to be thought of as "plain C of E". gelism, said: "It was the 100year anniversary of a famous Two Anglican dioceses service in the Southwell launched their decades early, last summer. The Bishop of minster." The launch included a prayer vigil and a prayer card that has been circulated throughout the Doncaster, the Right Rev William Persson, said Shef-field diocese's decade was launched in June, with The Feast of the Epiphany is the day Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple to 14,000 people at an open-air encharist at Doncaster racecourse. "We have appointed be dedicated to God, where an adviser in evangelism and Simeon described Jesus as "a

Israel". Epiphany will also coincide this year with the commitment to their covenant with God, when they say together: "I freely and whole-heartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal." Many Christians find it

casier to avow their faith among like-minded people than to explain their lifestyle to others. Donald English, president of the Methodist Conference, said: "I think the crucial question is going to be the degree to which each Christian in this country gains confidence in his or her Christian lifestyle and is willing to tell other people why he or she lives in this particular way."

One critical voice has been that of the influential Rev Paul Hulme, minister of Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London. He said he was dubious about the decade. He wrote in the latest Methodist Recorder. "I must confess to feeling uneasy about the Decade of Evangelism. It is a high-sounding title, but what does it mean? What are we supposed to be doing that we are not doing already?

"If it is another attempt to remind us that we are not

from those who had hijacked it to mean what they want it to mean: a "religious jamboree for happy Christians". The word had not into the hands of the wrong people, who think it is limited to a "findamentalist view of Scripture and salvation" The decade is in danger of leaving people more con-fused than they are at the moment, he said. It was unrealistic to think there would be a mighty revival if people preached the "true" Gospel from the "true" Word.

The United Reformed Church has backed the decade. The Rev Bernard Thorogood, URC general secretary, said: "We believe there is a permanent calling of the people of God to witness to the great acts of God in Jesus Christ, and this God in Jesus Christ, and this involves all of us, not just the professionals." The Rev David Coffey, general secretary-elect of the Baptist Union and secretary for evangelism, said the Baptist church had adopted a "decade by streets" supposed. cade by stages" approach.

Temerrow: Non-Christian

**British Gas** 



The Pope giving his Christmas blessing: war in the Gulf would be "an adventure with no return"

## Pope appeals for peace in the Gulf

THE Pope yesterday urged shadows, "though they seem national leaders to realise that to be growing deeper on the a war in the Gulf would be "an horizon, cannot dim the light adventure with no return". In of Christ". his Christmas message he also called for a solution to the Christ is with the tormented Israeli-Palestinian conflict but nations of the Middle East". it was not clear if he was the Pope also called for a suggesting that it should be solution to the Israeli-Palestlinked to the Gulf crisis.

"For the area of the Gulf, we Land too has been awaiting wait with trepidation for the this peace for years: a peaceful threat of conflict to disappear. solution to the whole question May leaders be convinced that which concerns it, a solution war is an adventure with no which takes into account the return," he told thousands of people in St Peter's Square. "By reasoning, patience and

dialogue with respect for the Israel," he said. inalienable rights of people identify and travel the paths of and political opposition" in understanding and peace," he Eastern Europe had left said in the message televised live to 60 countries.

His call for "respect for the inalienable rights of people lems, he called for "a more and nations" appeared to be a just sharing of the earth's reference to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, which the Pope has

Declaring that "the light of inian conflict. "The Holy legitimate expectations of the Palestinian people and of the people who live in the state of

The Pope also said that "the is, it is possible to tumbled walls of ideological believers with the challenge to shun hedonism and materialism. Citing Africa's prob-

Queen's message, page 11

## TO SURVIVE GAS LEAKS, BRITISH GAS RECOMMENDS USING YOUR ANIMAL INSTINCTS.

ALL animals, including humans, have special senses to help them survive in their natural environment. Our senses may not be as acute as those of our fellow creatures, but they can still alert us to potential danger at home.

A gas leak is easily detected by human nostrils.

If you smell gas, your first instinct should be to use your eyes. Check to see if the gas has been left unlit, or a burner has gone out. See that doors and windows are open.

See that the gas is turned off at the meter.

See that nobody turns electrical switches on or off or touches the doorbell, or smokes.

Use your voice. Phone the gas emergency service straight away (the number is under Gas in the telephone directory). Don't leave it to someone else. No matter what time of day or night, one of our engineers will be round as fast as humanly possible. In the meantime, play safe.

Use your senses. It's only common sense.

# Runcie denounces

against the glamorisation of war and the cult of violence encouraged by television.

Dr Robert Runcie said this year's Christmas celebration of peace was taking place with the shadow of war hanging over the Gulf.

In his last Christmas Day sermon at Canterbury cathedral before his retirement next month, he spoke of the temptation for individuals and nations to "glamorise violence as an instrument for righting wrongs and for making and restoring peace". He repeated his view that war in the Gulf could be justified

only as a last resort. At the end of a century in which war had cost millions of lives, it remained "strangely and powerfully seductive. Groups like the IRA continue to bathe violence in a romantic light, to propagate the view that only by adopting violent means can their ends be achieved.

"And mass entertainment panders to this cult of violence, bringing fighting and murder into our living rooms as a spectacle to be seen from our armchairs, and distancing violence from the pain, re-morse and grief which inevitably follow it.

"Against the cult of violence, Christian faith and experience is bound to protest. The faith that takes in the stable of Bethlehem and the cross of Calvary is schooled to distrust raw power as an agent of any lasting good,"

The archbishop had a special messsage for the soldiers serving in the Gulf and the people of Kuwait. He said everyone was acutely aware that within a few weeks there | towards political violence.

combat thousands could suffer and die. So, poignantly this Christmas, we remember our own young men and women

serving in the forces. "We pray also for the United Nations, that the fragile opportunity for creating a new world order of law and restraint may be upheld." Dr Runcie said the world was "uneasily poised fresh and alarming dangers and new possibilities that there could be for the first time an international order which can claim universal respect".

> Letters, page 9 Photograph, page 18

### Ulster hope raised

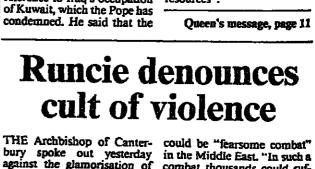
CHURCH leaders in Northern Ireland yesterday welcomed the IRA's three-day Christmas ceasefire and said it gave hope of positive develop-

ments in 1991. The Most Rev Earnes, Church of Ireland primate, and the Most Rev Cahal Daly, his new Catholic counterpart, referred to the temporary cessation of violence in Christmas morning sermens at their Armagh cathedrals.

Archbishop Earnes said the province might be standing on the threshold of peace, bringing an end to the hatred and violence. Dr Daly said the ceaselire would be particularly welcome if it signalled a change in attitude on the part of the IRA and Sinn Fein



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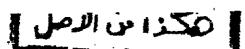
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PREEPOST, London E.1 108: Regulare Goody

# Violence and dread of war bring gloom to Holy Land



mas in the birthplace of Christ was a joyous affair, with thousands thronging Manger Square in front of the Church of the Nativity. Yesterday Bethlehem and the entire Holy Land were sunk in deep gloom and apprehension, the Christmas festivities not only restricted for the third year running by the Palestinian uprising, or intifada, but also overshadowed by the grim prospect of a Middle

"What we need today is love on the eve of an imminent world war," said Archbishop Michel Sabbah, the Palestinian Roman Catholic patriarch, as he cele-brated midnight Mass. But there was little love in evidence as a handful of visitors, probably fewer than 200, sang carols in a rainswept Manger Square while

Christmas in Bethlehem has turned from joy to grief and foreboding, Richard Owen reports. Soldiers outnumber pilgrims and local Christians' hearts are heavy

heavily armed Israeli troops kept watch from surrounding rooftops in case of intifada violence.

"This is the saddest, gloomiest Christmas I can remember," said Elias Freij, the long-serving Arab Mayor of Bethlehem, who can normally muster at least a spark of ebullience. "Every family here bears the scars of the intifada in the form of killed or wounded relatives or ruined businesses."

Church leaders again cancelled all festivities except religious ceremonies, and Bethlehem's shops were closed. The town's 35,000

Arab Christians were, in any case, in no mood to put up lights or decorations to welcome the patriarch as he arrived from Jerusalem. Worshippers were outnumbered by soldiers, and the 14 Western choirs which used to hold carol services in Bethlehem were reduced to just one.

On everyone's mind, overshadowing the "glad tidings of great joy" announcing Christ's birth, was the grim warning by was the grim warning by Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, that war was very close. In Nazareth, in Israel proper, the

filled with bell-ringing and carol singing as thousands of Arab Christians walked in procession to the Basilica of the Annunciation. But even here festivities were lowkey as church leaders emphasised the tense situation in their Christ-

mas sermons. In Bethlehem, Israeli forces sought to lighten the atmosphere by handing pink carnations to visitors after they had searched them with metal detectors for weapons and bombs.

However, Elias Rishmawi, a Palestinian chemist from nearby Beit Sahour, or Shepherd's Fields, produced a leaflet written at Christmas 1945, towards the end of the British mandate in Palestine. It said: "What kind of festive season can this be when our souls are sad, our families are

chest?" Mr Rishmawi added: "Nothing changes except the rulers." Gunfire crackled nearby: an Israeli patrol was chasing young Arab stone-throwers.

Archbishop Sabbah referred to "a situation in which our land is still dominated by injustice and fear as well as the desire for peace". In a Christmas message, he and other church leaders called on world leaders to "spare the region from devastating destruc-tion". The message said the Christian churches considered it their sacred duty to voice concern about human rights violations by Israeli troops in the occupied territories, and deplored the "pervasive mood of despair because of the considerable suffering and loss of life among Palestin-

change the character of Jerusalem and to erode the centuries-old privileges and rights of the Christian churches by encroaching on church property and imposing

Because of the deteriorating situation, many Christian Arabs are leaving Israel and the West Bank. In 1947 there were 150,000 Christians, mostly Arabs, in what was Palestine. Whereas the Muslim population has doubled and the Jewish population has in-creased sixfold, the number of Christian Arabs has decreased to 130,000 today.

"If we are not careful, the churches which commemorate Christ's birth and death will soon Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, a leading archaeological historian.

## Cheney and Powell argue against hasty use of force

From Susan Ellicott in Washington

leaders of the United States have told President Bush that American forces will not be ready to launch a military attack on Iraq by January 15, the United Nations deadline authorising the use of force against Iraq if it has not withdrawn from

The comments by Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, and General Colin Powell, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, were the latest sign that military officials are stepping up efforts to dissuade political leaders from launching an attack on Iraq until their forces are fully prepared.

They briefed Mr Bush for three hours on Christmas Eve at Camp David on the readiness and morale of American forces involved in Operation Desert Shield. Reports of the meeting suggest they advised Mr Bush to wait until the completion of a deployment of up to 200,000 troops between mid-January and mid-February.

Their discussions followed mixed signals, - deliberate or unintentional - from the United

## Allies may pull envoys

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Bush administration is consulting allies on whether to wind down their embassies in Baghdad before January 15, the date after which the United Nations has authorised military action against lraq, if it has not withdrawn its forces from Kuwait

Officials said the embassies would not be closed completely before January 15, but did not exclude the possibility that America and its partners could break diplomatic relations with Iraq en masse at some point after that. A senior state department of-

ficial said the embassies were performing important diplomatic functions, "but obviously as we approach the 15th we are going to have to ask ourselves what further function can be performed".

In an interview on Christmas Eve, the official said that, if direct talks between the United States and Iraq could not be arranged, the administration was considering other ways of convincing President Saddam Hussein that America was serious about going to war. He refused to elaborate, but one likelihood would be more high-profile military exercises.

.....

He confirmed America would seek more money from its allies early in the new year to offset both its huge military costs and the hardship of frontline states.

THE two most senior military States to Baghdad over the past two weeks on the readiness of its troops for offensive action. General Calvin Waller, the deputy commander of American forces in the Gulf, said last week they would not be fully prepared to launch an attack by the UN deadline. This week, The Washington Post quoted Pentagon officials as saying the United States has accelerated the development and deployment of several new weapons for potential use in a Gulf war, including an air-to-air missile capable of jamming electronic devices, and has stepped up production or modified other arms for use in the desert.

> General Waller's comments were in line with private assessments from other military officials but were widely regarded as undercutting the administration's strategy of keeping Iraq guessing about its plans and emphasising the importance of January 15. Mr Bush said last weekend that

American forces would be ready to react immediately if provoked by Iraq but left open the question of the readiness of the coalition forces for offensive action. Mr Cheney and General Powell returned at the weekend from their first joint visit to Saudi Arabia, after a review of war plans with commanders in the field and meetings with military and political leaders of Egypt Arabia, two key allies.

The meeting at Camp David punctuated a lull in diplomatic efforts by the United States and Iraq to resolve the Gulf conflict. Barring a diplomatic breakthrough, proposed high-level talks look increasingly unlikely to take place amid failure to agree on a date for talks between James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and President Saddam Hussein. The Los Angeles Times quoted Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, on Monday as saying officials of his government were willing to meet the Bush administration on January 12. The White House wants the meeting by January 3.

• Divided house: Parliament is not united behind the government's stance on the Gulf, Labour MPs Tam Dalyell and Harry Ewing have said in a telegram to Senator George Mitchell, leader of the Democrats in the US Senate (Nicholas Watt writes).

They told him: "Ted Heath's views are shared by many MPs in all parties. We believe the House of Commons should be consulted as you rightly wish Congress to be consulted before horrendous war." They sent the telegram on Christmas Eve and yesterday Mr Dalyell said the stakes were so high that Parliament should be recalled at the earliest

Shamir warning, page 1



Pitching in: comedian Bob Hope, right, with the former Cincinnati Reds baseball star, Johnny Bench, commenting in Sandi Arabia yesterday on their Christmas entertainment programme for US troops. The media have been barred from performances

## Santa flies good cheer to the Rats

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IN A swirl of dust, Santa Claus dropped in by helicopter yesterday in Saudi Arabia with Christmas presents for Britain's Desert Rats. And according to tradition, officers of the 7th Armoured Brigade served their soldiers a Christmas dinner of turkey and plum pudding, took over guard duty and scrubbed out the latrines.

The commanding officer, Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, had a Christmas message for President Saddam Hussein. "I think they (the Iraqis) understand the psychological warfare that is going on and they are quite certain that ... we're prepared to go to war if

necessary," he told reporters. While burly soldiers draped in festive tinsel took turns to sit on Santa's knee to receive Monopoly sets, cheese biscuits, books and mince pies, it was still business as usual as the allied forces continued their build-up.

Amid the festivities, convoys of trucks and armoured vehicles streamed towards the border with Kuwait, seized by Iraq nearly five months ago.

Some American forces have been placed on a higher state of alert as a precaution in case Iraq chooses the Christmas holiday to launch a pre-emptive strike.

British troops, wearing the distinctive emblem of a rat for their part in the second world war North African desert campaign. have received 100 tons of Christmas cards and presents donated by the British Legion of exservicemen, the Salvation Army and supermarkets.

"To a soldier, from two old codgers with no son of their own," read one card. "Thank you for your help - a Kuwaiti family," Letters, page 9 | read another sent from St Johns

Wood in London. Sometimes, the goodwill went the other way. One troop of Royal Engineers sent a teddy bear and Christmas card to Max, aged four-and-a-half, from Preston in Sussex who suffers from cerebral palsy.

On Christmas Eve. in camps across eastern Saudi Arabia, soldiers gathered to sing carols under the stars."It was very poignant," said one tank commander.



Cordingley: issued Christmas warning to President Saddam

On board the US Navy hospital ship Mercy in the Gulf, Santa appeared on a cargo dolly decorated like a sleigh. Pulling the dolly were seven men and women wearing cardboard reindeer

Elsewhere in Saudi Arabia, US forces attended religious services behind closed doors to avoid offending Muslims but many openly displayed Christmas trees.

Queen's speech, page 11 the times. We cannot manage it so country."

## **Baghdad Christians** pray for peace

From JOHN HOLLAND IN BAGHDAD

"PRAY that the Prince of Peace will rescue us from the scourge of war" - those were the words of Baghdad's leading Assyrian Catholic cleric, invoking his congregation in the packed pews of St Mary's Church to hold true to God and country.

He spoke the Christmas Eve words just after the last strains of "Auld Lang Syne", sung in Arabic by the choir, faded in the church one of many in the city filled over the two-day Christmas holiday for Christians in this overwhelmingly Muslim country.

According to Iraqi officials, there are about 100 Christian churches in Baghdad. Most of Iraq's one million Christians went to Mass or Protestant services, taking a brief respite from the looming spectre of war. Even Tariq Aziz, the foreign minister and a Christian, apparently attended church. The Christmas respite was

likely to be temporary for most Iraqis, Muslims or Christians. The men at St Mary's looked grim, determined, while some women sat quietly, chins quivering, as they listened to the choir. Candles and incense were lit by

parishioners, and altar boys passed around a collection plate which was full to overflowing when it reappeared at the altar. One parishioner, Tario al-Rahsha, said his family began preparing for Christmas early to get in enough food for a pleasant dinner - but it still did not begin to rival last year's feast. "We spread the feast out across the floor last year and sat in a circle but as you can see, we can only eat from a small table this time. It is

good with the shortages." After lunch, Mr al-Rahsha and his wife and four children visited relatives in another apartment in Baghdad and planned later on a telephone call to relatives in Michigan in the United States.

No presents were exchanged this year, he said - again because of the situation. "Everyone was told to bring things they thought they would like to share with everyone, like their voices or a guitar to play music, nothing

But, he added proudly, "I did manage to buy my youngest son, who is 15, a new pair of trousers and our daughter a new blouse." He said he had paid 120 dinars for the two items - about half his monthly wage.

After dinner, in his study, Mr al-Rahsha turned grimly, like all Iraqis this holiday season, to the coming storm. "I am a good Christian and do not like war, but history is on our side and we will fight to keep Kuwait," he said.

Did war concern him? "If there is a war we are ready. Kuwait is Iraqi since a long time.

"Jesus Christ, he is the man of peace, he came for peace and we like peace - now everybody is praying for peace. In the next days this is what we will pray for - for the US government to decide for

Mr al-Rahsha's son Ragid, a veterinary student aged 21 and a reservist in the army, entered the room and was asked what he believed he was fighting for. "My mother," came the reply. "She really wants peace, but if there is war she is happy we take part. And if we die, we die for her and our

## Right-wing Lebanese militia shun cabinet

Beirut - The hardline Christian Lebanese Forces militia has refused to sit on a cabinet of national reconciliation on which it was offered only one seat. Its boycott could delay the im-plementation of a plan to end Lebanon's 15-year civil war (Ali Jaber writes).

Omar Karami, the new prime minister, appointed a range of rival militia leaders to the 30member cabinet, which is to implement the peace plan and disband the militias. However, the Lebanese Forces rejected the appointments as unbalanced.

Samir Geagea, the Lebanese Forces commander, was named as a minister without portfolio, but he will not take up his seat. Other warlords such as Walid Jumblatt, the Druze chief, and Nabih Berri, the Amal leader, were given similar posts. Sitting cabinet members such as Albert Mansour, George Saadeh, Michel Sasin and Ali Khalil retained their seats. Other appointees were said to have been implicated in atrocities during the civil war.

### Children fly to **Britons in Gulf**

Hundreds of British families in the Gulf have ignored Foreign Office advice to send dependants home, and many have brought children out from Britain to join them for the Christmas holiday (Andrew McEwen writes).

Their action has angered others in the Gulf, who feel it has worsened flight congestion, making it difficult to obtain a homeward booking before the United Nations deadline of Janaury 15 for Iraq to leave Kuwait. The congestion is partly artificial, because a high proportion of those who book

fail to show up. The mood of pessimism in London and Washington, where most diplomats believe a conflict is more likely with Iraq than it was ten days ago, does not seem to be shared by Britons living in the Gulf. Even some British diplomats have disregarded the Foreign Office advice on dependants.

ILE

CAP

### Howitzer death

Eastern Sandi Arabia - One of five soldiers, who was injured when a 105 mm howitzer exploded during a training accident last Thursday, has died, bringing the death toll in Operation Desert Shield to 81, the American military's central command announced. The soldiers were from the 3/320th Field Artillery of the 101st Airborne Division. The cause of the accident is being investigated. The dead man had been in a coma. (AP)

### Plea for hostages

Beirut - Relatives and friends of two hostages held in Lebanon wished them a merry Christmas and said in letters published in Beirut newspapers they hoped for their release. The letters were addressed to the British journalist, John McCarthy, aged 34, spending his fifth year as a hostage, and American journalist, Terry Anderson, aged 43. This Christmas was his sixth in captivity. (Reuter)

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Taiwan

to end

state

of war

Taipei - Taiwan will formally end its state of war with China

before May, removing an

important obstacle to closer ties with Peking and further

democratic reform on the

island, President Lee Teng-hui

But in a sign of continuing

pressure on the Nationalist

government, about 10,000

opposition supporters

marched here to demand even

President Lee said the

Nationalists would before

May rescind a 42-year-old

emergency declaration issued

during the civil war and

complete a process of consti-

tutional reform. "We hope

that in the shortest period of

time, that is to say, before May next year, we will declare an

end to the period of com-munist rebellion," he told the

The reforms would help to

set the stage for the eventual

reunification of Taiwan with

mainland China and meet

growing demands for democ-

Provisions under the decla-

ration, issued just before the

Nationalist government lost the war and fled to Taiwan in

1949, give sweeping powers to the presidency and freeze in

office hundreds of ageing legslators elected in China.

elopment," he said yesterday.

Mogadishu - With rebels

"If we do not return to a normal constitutional system,

racy, Mr Lee said.

National Assembly.

said yesterday.

swifter change.

## **Amsterdam cuts** aid after military coup in Surinam

overthrew the elected government of the former Dutch rich country. a dispute between its president and long-time military chief. mer Surinamese officials now living abroad said.

The Netherlands yesterday condemned the coup and The Dutch foreign ministry gave a warning to the country's military leaders not to use force in the future.

All telephone and telex communications with Surinam appeared to have been cut yesterday after Monday's coup. Attempts to contact the capital, Paramaribo, from neighbouring French Guiana and Venezuela were fruitless.

The whereabouts of President Ramsewak Shankar were not known. It was not known mer Surinamese diplomat livwhether he or other members of the civilian government

had been placed under arrest. The military chief, Lieutenant-Colonel Desi Bouterse, line with its "constitutional had earlier resigned, raising responsibility".

SURINAM's armed forces speculation that he would try to seize control of the mineral-In Amsterdam, a former

ficial who had been in touch There were no reports of with Colonel Bouterse after Surinamese official said that shooting and the coup appar- the coup said the military the army had promised to ently was bloodless, two for- acted after the government down. The colonel led a military coup that toppled an elected government in 1980 and ruled until elections in November 1987, which Mr Shankar's Front for Democracy and Development party won by a landslide. Relations between the government and Colonel Bouterse had been strained ever since Mr Shankar began a five-year term in January 1988.

the armed forces, Lieutenant Ivan Graanoogst, announced the coup on television late on Monday, according to a foring in a nearby country. Lieutenant Graanoogst read a statement saying that in taking control the army was acting in

The former diplomat quoted Lieutenant Graanoogst as saying that a curfew was in effect and urging his compatrihigh-ranking Surinamese of- ots to remain calm.

In Amsterdam, the former form an interim government reneged on a pledge to step in the coming week that would organize free elections within 100 days.

The Amsterdam foreign ministry statement con-demned the undemocratic seizure of power by the Suriserious blow to the process of consolidation of a democratic Dutch government has decided to suspend development co-operation aid with Surinam until further notice".

The Netherlands, which granted Surinam independence in 1975, agreed to provide about \$100 million (£53 million) of aid a year. It suspended aid in 1982 after 15 opposition leaders were killed in army custody under a previous regime headed by

## West helps Moscow recapture its glitter

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FOR the first time in over 70 years of strict communist rule, a huge Christmas tree adorned Moscow's otherwise drab city centre to lend a Western-style festive air to

Western capitalism, too, played its part. General Electric, the US company with long experience of lighting the national Christmas tree in Washington, laid on a similar speciacle in Moscow's GUM department store, complete with a short carol service.

Most Russian Christians celebrate Christmas in two weeks' time, following the old Orthodox calendar. But Christmas was an of-

ficial holiday yesterday for the first time in the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. However, the holiday mood was marred by tension

was planning a crackdown against the republics. As part of their move to leave the Soviet Union, the three republics declared both Christmas Day and Christmas Eve official holidays.

and speculation that Moscow



### KGB chief tempers and strengthen the operation hard to establish a foundation attack on for our country's further dev-Oligarchy ends

From Our Foreign Staff IN MOSCOW

VLADIMIR Kryuchkov, the KGB chief, qualified remarks he had made at the weekend accusing the West of lacing food aid with radioactive contaminants. He said he had been misunderstood and that his statement did not signify a return to a Cold War

Speaking before the Congress of People's Deputies on Saturday, he had accused certain foreign enterprises of activities which he said were he received 300 million yen close to economic sabotage. Yesterday he said it was impossible to return to the past, either in the Soviet Union or globally, and added he had not meant to accuse the refused to confirm the newsmajority of foreign enter-prises. He welcomed international aid, and said most countries were acting well.

On Monday, Washington had challenged his remarks as unfounded and inaccurate, and expressed concern about a return to outdated and inflammatory rhetoric.

• BERLIN: Germans have given the Red Cross at least DM 40 million (£13.86 million) to alleviate shortages in the Soviet Union, Prince Botho zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, the national Red Cross director, said. (Reuter)

Kryuchkov: denies return to Cold War mentality

# aid donors

closing in on the capital, Somalia has legalised opposition parties and ended 17 years of one-party rule. Abdikassim Salad Hassan, the interior minister, said a new law would allow parties to contest an election early in 1991. Dissidents dismissed the move as a trick. (Reuter)

Bribery scandal Tokyo - Kazuya Ishibashi, ister, admitted to police that (£1.2 million) from two people involved in a bribery scandal over a new golf course project in Chiba prefecture, Japanese newspapers said. But police Joy in Hanoi

Hanci - Crowds scrambled to

attend midnight Mass here in one of the biggest demonstra-tions of Catholic religious fervour in communist Vietnam for years, witnesses said. Most people took Christmas as a holiday. Streetcorner speakers blared Victnamese renderings of Jingle Bells and Silent Night. (AFP)

### Guerrilla truce

Mexico City — The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, El Salvador's left-wing rebel group, has declared a nine-day holiday truce, stopping a month-long offensive. However, government forces launched an operation against the rebels last Thursday. (AP)

### Snowball ban

Islamabad — Throwing snow-balls, loud singing and taking photographs of women have been banned by the magistrate of the Pakistan hill resort of Murree, after complaints about snowball attacks by tourists. The measures will remain in force for two months. Murree is currently snowed under. (Reuter)

## Tirana refuses to postpone election

From REUTER IN TIRANA

ALBANIA's communist lead- day after President Alia, ership turned down a request responding to pro-democracy from the country's first oppo- protests by students, said he sition party to postpone a general election scheduled for ties to be formed. February 10, Tirana radio reported yesterday.

The new Albanian Democratic party appealed last week remaining until the election for a postponement of two to were long enough for parties to three months to give it time to organise. But the radio said the przesidium of the people's assembly had decided there was "no objective reason" to postpone the poll.

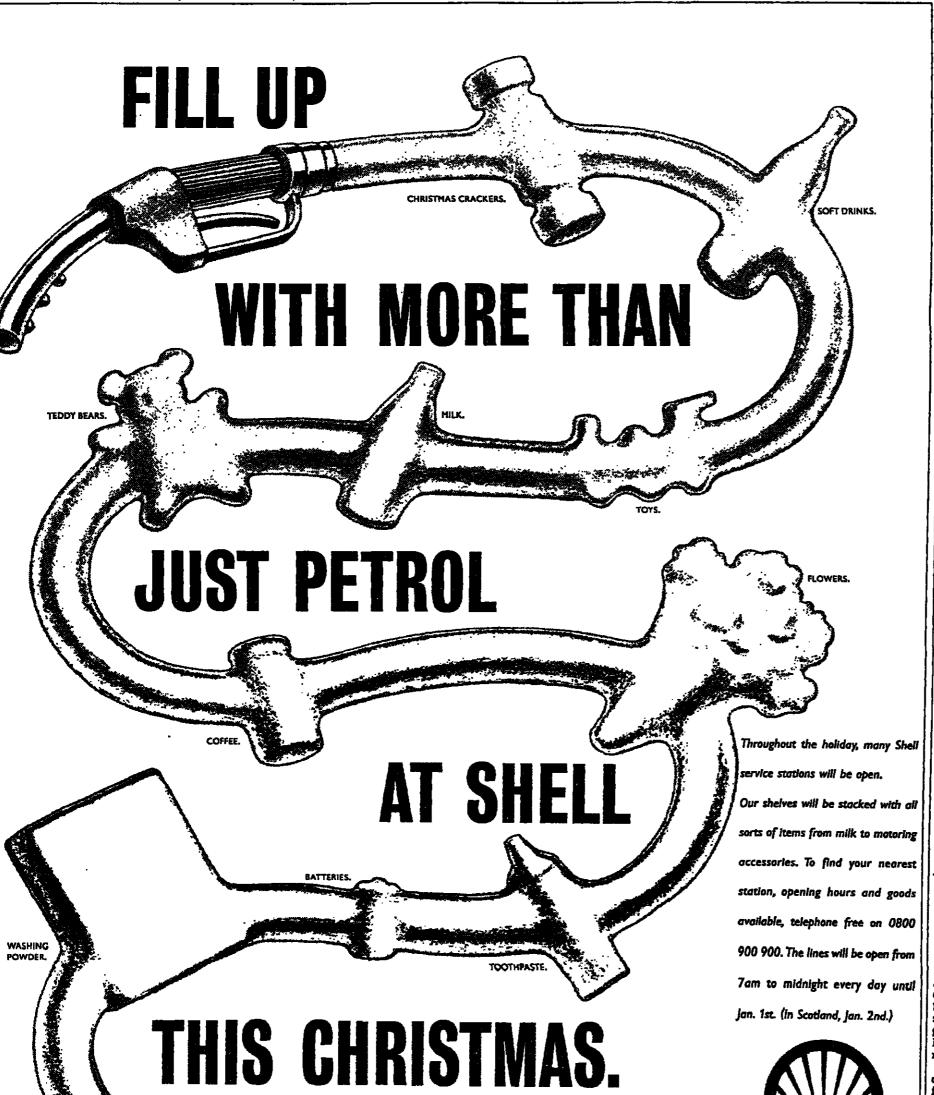
A group of Christians, outlawed along with other religious believers under the stalinist and atheist system created by Enver Hoxha, the former leader, announced the formation of a second oppo-

sition party. Father Simon Jubani, Albania's leading Catholic activist, said he and other Christians would set up the Christian Democratic Party. The Albawould allow independent par-

Sihat Tozaj, the secretary of the praesidium, was quoted by the radio as saying the 40 days put up candidates. Since no party had yet launched its campaign, he said, all were starting from the same base.

The Democratic Party, however, has complained that it is denied access to the communist-controlled media. Slogans of the ruling (communist) Party of Labour are prominently displayed in every town and village.

• First service: Father Jubani yesterday conducted the first Christian Mass in Albania for 23 years in a graveyard in the northern city of Shkoder. Almost 10,000 people attended the midnight service. "It is nian Democratic Party was like winter suddenly turning formed earlier this month, a into summer," he said.



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## Ceausescu's dying son protests he is revolution scapegoat

grace, Romania's "crown prince", the son of the executed tyrant Nicolae Ceausescu, is a broken man. Nicu Ceausescu, aged 40, is serving a 20-year sentence for "incitement to extremely grave mur-der for his part in the death of 89 people killed in his fief-dom, the Transylvanian town of Sibiu, during the 1989 Romanian revolution, in which his parents were sum-marily tried and shot on

Christmas Day.

Terminally ill, slurring his words and chain-smoking, Nicu Ceausescu claimed in an interview on Christmas Eve in the hospital wing of the infamous Jilava jail, just south of Bucharest, that he had a great regret: "I will die here." The interview was conducted in the presence of his lawyer, his doctor and the chief guard of the prison medical wing.

Ceausescu asserted he was not guilty of ordering anyone to fire on civilians during the revolution, that he had been said. "The authorities are afraid of me ... but I'm left prison, wondering why."

He claimed that, before demonstrators but these had

a tearaway and petty tyrant, and later a womaniser and drunkard. In an interview Romanian Olympic gymnast, claimed that her daughter had been dominated "body and he had had one of her finger-nails pulled out after she people then as now." refused to go along with one of out the interview, Ceausescu refused to be drawn on the details of his "personal life",



Nicolae Ceausescu: "said Nicu was people's enemy"

saying that there were "a lot of legends" about him. Ceausescu, who had been

time of the revolution, was apprehended on December 22 last year. He vigorously denies that he was trying to escape. If that had been the case, "I would not have been driving good idea to try to meet him been replaced.

and the new government. at least a decade he had my father and Gorbachev. My opposed his father's policies father wanted to show that and because he criticised his Romania would not do just parents' actions had eff- what Gorbachev wanted."

A year after the Ceausescus were executed in the Romanian revolution, their jailed son, Nicu, tells Tim Judah how he tried to curb their excesses

1980 and a "political rupture" in 1984. "I told my parents that people were suffering as Kremlin at the time of the far back as 1970. From a revolution, to back his claim. political point of view, it was a

generation struggle."

Because he had disagreed with his parents, Ceausescu denied that Sibiu had been the training ground to groom a successor. Rather, he claimed he had never discussed the matter with his parents and that he had been "pushed away to Sibiu". He declared: homes and friends?" Also he denied that he had been preparing to succeed his par-

ents, as "I did not want this". Citing an example of opporevolution, that he had been sition to their policies, he said made a scapegoat, and that he had been against their had long opposed his parents' destruction of much of old policies. "What is certain is Bucharest and putting in its that I had to be convicted," he place the city's gargantuan, still unfinished House of the People and the 21/2-mile here, an innocent man in Boulevard of the Victory of Socialism which leads to it.

He said that the idea of fleeing Sibiu, he gave orders demolishing much of the old for army and Securitate troops city had been that of a fawning not to fire on revolutionary politician who had suggested that the Ceausescus' political been countermanded. He careers would be incomplete would not say by whom. From his teens, Ceausescu stone. Ceausescu recounted gained the reputation of being that he had taken a stand against the demolition of a particularly beautiful and historic church. He said: "I told earlier this year, the mother of them that if they knocked it Nadia Comaneci, the former down I would turn cannon on the House of the People." He said that his parents had responded to this by calling soul" by Ceausescu and that him an "enemy of the people".

Ceausescu said his father his sexual demands. Through- knew only about 50-60 per cent, "maybe less", of what had been happening in the Romania he ruled. He said: "He was surrounded by sycophants. In order to maintain their privileges and power, they told my father that everything he did was good and they agreed with every-thing he said. No one told him the truth, so from this point of view it was a dictatorship."

Ceausescu claimed, how-Valentin and sister Zoia be had tried to "explain that things were not always as he had been told ... but he (his father) could not believe me ... after all he was hearing these things from ministers". He would not comment on

his emotions concerning his parents' executions. However, he did say: "It is one thing to be part of the family, but another to make policies. They should have been made to explain what they did and head of the Communist Youth
League and was party first
secretary in Sibiu, 160 miles
north-west of Bucharest, at the

to explain what they did and
why ... not shot. I say this not
just because they were my
parents. Romania has now
been deprived of this

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opportunity." Ceausescu said he was "somewhat surprised" by the revolution that ended his father's 24-year rule, but it was "logical" that he should have to Bucharest but across the border. It would have been replaced. He was a convinced communist and he easy to leave". He said he had was stubborn. All the others known President Iliescu in the from the old guard in the past and thought it would be a former socialist countries had

nd the new government.

"It was probably a matter of conflicting ambitions between ectively been exiled to provin- The consequence was that the

## cial Sibiu. He said that there. Soviet role in the revolution had been a "family rupture" in was "instrumental" and he described measures, such as

troop movements taken by the "Changes there should have been, but they should and could have happened peacefully." Asked whose fault it

was that they had not, Ceausescu said forcefully: "Not mine." Asked if he thought it was his parents' fault, he replied: "Maybe so." Ceausescu has appealed against his sentence. It was

"Who wants to leave their legally "not correct" that the charge of "complicity to geno-cide" was changed at the moment of sentencing. But he was not particularly hopeful that his appeal would succeed. Was be prepared to fight his diseases and his legal case? Laughing, he said: "I shall have to think about it."

Leading article, page 9



Ceausescu, the son of the executed Romanian dictator, Nicolae, pleading his case during his interview on Christmas Eve in Jilava prison, near Bucharest, where he is serving a 20year sentence for his part in the deaths in Sibiu of 89 people during the 1989

that be is terminally ill, suffering from cirrhosis of the liver caused by hepatitis, a varicosed oesophagus and depression. She believes that he could suffer a potentially fatal haemorrhage at any time and that the prison hospital does not have the necessary

save his life or treat him properly. "He vomits three or four times a day and has lost 22 kg (3st 6lb) since he was arrested." She asked that her name not be published, citing the fear of death threats for looking after one of the hated Ceausescu clan

### Milosevic trounces opposition in Serbia

From Associated Press IN BELGRADE

SERBIA'S communists, led by Slobodan Milosevic and recently renamed Socialists, crushed all opposition in the republic's first free vote in five decades, winning 194 seats in the 250-seat parliament, the results showed yesterday.

Serbia, the largest republic,

and Montenegro, the smallest, were the only two of Yugo-slavia's six republics to elect communist governments. The result is likely to keep tensions high with the other four regions, where centre-right or nationalist parties triumphed. The opposition, which formed a coalition on the eve of the second-round ballot, won 48 seats in the onechamber parliament. Eight other seats went to independent candidates.

Stanko Radmilovic, the Serbian prime minister, was ousted in the second round. Dragoljub Micunovic, of

the Democratic Party, who defeated a Socialist candidate in Belgrade, said the oppo-sition should look into alleged irregularities before declaring the elections fair and honest. He also complained they did not get enough coverage from

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## Reunited family hail year of unity

From A Correspondent in Frankfurt

HEN the two brothers and two sisters, their would celebrate Christmas together. Last year we celebrated at home ... everyspouses and children gathered around the tree on Christmas Eve in the grand living room to sing Oh Tannenbaum it was hard to believe that the family had endured decades of separation during the 40-year

division of Germany. But their faces hinted at the sorrow and fear that had kept them apart for years but now bound them closer together at their first Christmas in their reunified country.

The story of the Wolters family, which had gathered in the house of the oldest brother, Hans-Georg, aged 55, near Frankfurt, almost reads like the history of the country: one, yet divided. "Even one year ago, we couldn't imagine that we

brated at home ... every-thing was so chaotic then," said sister Lore, aged 47, who lives in Dresden. "Now we all live in the same country." The five Wolters siblings - one sister was unable to attend the reunion - grew up in Dresden, where their father practised law and their mother gave piano lessons. ans-Georg fled to West Berlin in 1959. His sister Renate, now aged 54, and her husband followed to the West in 1961, only months before the Berlin Wall was built. The others, Ulrike, Lore and Hartmut, stayed in East Germany. "I am so glad you are all here," Hans-Georg said. "It took a

long time to get here." Christmas hangover, page 8

## Labour and the Sabbath

**Martin Jacques** 

hat is the most talked-about issue this Christ-mas? It might be the Gulf. It could be the darkening skies over the Soviet Union. It might even, at a pinch, be the likely outcome of the next election. But my preferred candidate is something completely different: working time and leisure time. That might seem a little odd, but think of the endless hours of discussion about the nature of the Christmas break - joined this year

by the debate on Sunday opening. We are now in the midst of what has become an extraordinary holiday. Once, not so long ago, the festive season was short and sharp. The holiday was confined to Christmas Day (only after midday in Scotland) and Boxing Day. New Year's Day was a working day (though not in Scotland, of course). Then Christmas slowly extended its tentacles. No one planned the Great Festive Sleep. It just grew like Topsy and

eventually became the norm. Yet, if the issue had ever been debated rationally I doubt whether we would have ended up in this mess. The majority, it seems, now have an enforced holiday lasting at least 11 days, at a time of the year when it is almost impossible to get away and when the weather is at its worst. Furthermore, there is relatively little to do.

I was forcibly reminded of this when looking through the local paper. Throughout the whole period, all the sports centres, swimming pools and libraries will be closed. Two reasons were given by the leader of the Labour council which prides itself on the delivery of first class services: first, it was second, there was no demand at this time of year. I will return to the first argument later, but the second is patently absurd. This is the one time of the year when such facilities should be open. Changes in the pattern of our holidays require commensurate changes in the provision of services.

The debate over the increas ingly unstoppable trend towards Sunday opening raises similar ssues. Three factors have pushed the process along. First, there has been the decline of the old working week, and its replacement by a positive patchwork of working practices. As a result, the week is now considered in more flexible terms. Further, the fact that most women work as well as shop, has increased the pressure for longer shopping hours, including Sunday opening.

Second, the idea of Sunday as the sabbath has declined as society has grown steadily more secular in its habits and beliefs. Finally, Sunday has traditionally been a boring day with limited possibilities from which to choose. I wide of the mark.

find the argument for a more libertarian conception of Sunday overwhelming. If people want more choice on a Sunday then so be it. I say this with two reservations.

There is a strong argument that Sunday should not simply become like any other day of the week, one-seventh of a seven-day week economy, subject to the same levels of consestion and general hassle. Yet personally I doubt whether this will happen. Cultural habits are too deeply ingrained. Most people will still not work on a Sunday. They may want more choice, but that does not mean they want it to be like Monday.

The second reservation is a more serious problem. One of the most vociferous opponents of Sunday opening is the shop-workers union, Usdaw. Its argu-ment is that Sunday opening will mean many shop assistants, who are low-paid and enjoy little bargaining power, will face a serious deterioration in their working conditions, with many in practice being forced to work on Sundays. This raises some important issues in relation to both the Christmas break and Sundays.

Usdaw is wrong to oppose Sunday opening in principle, though one can appreciate the motives of a weak union representing a very weak group of workers. Less forgivable is the attitude of the Labour party which has quietly gone along with the Usdaw position, but without the same justification. It has settled for the knee-jerk response which invariably puts the interests of the producer before those of the consumer. For a party trying to modernise its image, this is at best intellectually lazy.

We are irresistibly moving to-

wards a society that is more consumer-driven, is more flexible in its conception of time, and in which leisure and services assume growing importance. That must be the starting point when it comes to the future of Sunday or the provision of services at Christmas. But equally, we must avoid creat-ing a society in which the only voice that matters is that of the consuming majority. The consumer society must not lead to the tyranny of the consumer. The ights of minorities, in this case the low-paid service providers, must be protected. Reasonable hours of work and decent working conditions are not simply a problem for the unions or the individual, but a legitimate responsibility of a humane, flexible society.

The Labour party may be approaching the problem from the wrong end, but those who would simply deregulate and create a society run according to the law of the jungle, in which the strong overpower the weak, are equally

...and moreover

## CRAIG BROWN

EXCLUSIVE: A reminder of the events of 1991 (Part Two). July 1: David Lynch's longwaited sequel to Twin Peaks hits the television screens. Thin Cliques has moved from North America to Downing Street, England. "We got rid of all the fatties - Howe, Lawson, Ingham - in a final shoot-out," explains Lynch, "and now everyone on the street is under twelve stone. 8th: The next volume of Mr Tony Benn's long-running memoirs is oublished. The 600-page A Fairly Normal Morning covers the most crucial events in the internal politics of the Labour party in the period from 8.30am to 10.15am on Tuesday, 14th September. The first entry begins, "Dear Diary: Got up, adjusted my TGWU tie, made sure the tape-recorder was working, went over to my diary and wrote, "Dear Diary: Got up, adjusted my TGWU tie, made sure the tape-recorder was working, went over to my diary and wrote..." 19th: Mr Michael Winner, internationally reas Death Wish 1, Kill! Kill! Kill!, Death Wish 2, Kill Some More, Death Wish 3, Kill Some More Again" and Death Wish 4 announces that he is increasingly concerned about violence on the streets, and is to fund a working-party to look into pos-

August 5: Ms Muffet is awarded an undisclosed out-of-court settlement because of severe psychological stress resulting from an encounter with a predatory insect. 14th: After many months searching, Mrs Thatcher is said to have found the ideal house for her retirement. Within easy reach of the Palace of Westminster, and with a garden large enough to accommodate a golf-course for Sir Denis, it is conveniently situated at the end of the Mall. September 3rd: Tackled in the Commons over his apparent ignorance of the workings of the European economy, Mr Neil Kinnock appears rattled. "Of course I know what an ecu is," he replies, "It's what comes back at you when you yodel in the Valleys." 23rd: Pop star Madonna appears stark naked on stage. Her aides dismiss 'cal disorders occasioned by criticism of the act. "She is not inadequate flood warnings.

so much appearing stark na-ked," they explain, "as indulg-ing in a brilliantly ironic statement about the overall concept of appearing stark naked." October 15th: In a surprise announcement, David Owen makes public his decision to split with himself, reducing his total party membership to a total of one half person. Both arms, a leg, a nostril and the majority of his neck plan to go their own way. "Our new party will be leaner but fitter," declares his remaining nostril. 27th: Sir Kingsley Amis begins a strenuous round of promotional lunches for his new novel, Women Aren't Like Blokes More's the Pity. In an interview at the Connaught with a renowned literary editor, he addresses what he sees as the principal dilemma of the modern novelist: "Should we plump for the Château Lafite or the Château Ducru-Beaucaiilou? he worries, "And is one allowed the steak and kidney pud and the roast lamb? Tricky November 5th: More literary news is made when the surprise bestseller is another anthology from the Oxford University Press. The Oxford Book of Blank Pages is a collection of the blank pages to be found before and after the main texts of authors as diverse as William Golding and Montaigne. There are five blank pages from a minor novel by Muriel Spark, and eight from two poetry collections of the late Philip Larkin. A further anthology of the shorter blank spaces between famous chapters is planned for the spring. 26th: Following last year's surprise inclusion of Mr Jeffrey Bernard in Who's Who, the new Dictionary of National Biography awards a characteristically generous entry to the late Dr Bodkin Adams. "His services to his patients knew no bounds", it runs, "and there was nothing he would not give to those whom he diagnosed as poorly". December 9th: The Liberal Democrats have a new leader, but nobody notices. 14th: In an out-

of-court settlement, Gloucester-

shire county council pays

undisclosed damages to a Dr

Foster who suffered psychologi-

Anne McElvoy sees 1991 as the year east Germans will tire of being told how grateful they should be, and the westerners tire of being nice to the east

# Germany's Christmas hangover

hoppers finally knew that the contorted, uneasy half-kingdom of the German Democratic Republic really had pullified itself and joined the west when the decorative Christ-mas angels on display in the stores of east Berlin were allowed to introduce themselves as such, sparing us their previous atheistic coyness as "Winged End of Year Figures". In this and other respects, the two souls in the German breast have moved a little closer together this Christmas.

For east Germany, this was the first proper Deutschmark Christmas, and thankfully it was more dignified than the last, which saw its citizens queuing patiently in west Berlin supermarkers to pay for the few stocking-fillers their DM100 Welcome Money bought them. Their stony faces betrayed that the 28-year assault on their dignity since the Wall was built had only been fully grasped when it was over. Hard to forget among the scenes of welcoming revelry was the sight of a weary east German housewife receiving the full ire of a west Berlin shopper because she was clogging up the supermarket aisles. "When the wall was closed we were exotic to you," she replied, "Now we are just poor."

One year on, east Germans are no longer poor but are even further from being exotic. No need to embark on consumerist pilgrimages to the west these days. In the renamed and restocked stores of east Berlin, Leipzig and Chemnitz, the glittering prizes of the pagan feast lay outspread last week, but the shoppers gathered around the cheapest of electrical goods, queuing patiently (as the east Germans used to do endlessly) to reach marked-down junk items that still seem essential to the well-being of those deprived of them by lack rather than common

For many, this was the last binge before the redundancy notices drop onto the doormats in the new year, before the longed-for market economy bares its teeth as well as its smile. Prosperity, the hope of achieving it and the fear of being left behind in the race towards it dominate the conversation as east German families gather this week. The most popular Christmas card in the east this year was an imitation 500 Deutschmark note.

After 1989 (the year of the revolution) and 1990 (the year of reunification), the most heartfelt wish of Germany in 1991 is to drop out of the world's headlines for a while, to concentrate on ing what Germany has rarely been this century: just another European country. But there is a long way to go. The lugubrious Green MP Joschka Fischer unleashed loud murmurs of agreement when he said on the eve of unity that he was postponing any personal celebration until well into the 21st century, because only then would be know whether the event was one to rejoice at or one to set his hair on end. So much of 1990 was devoted to

the mechanics of welding back together two completely different states after 40 years apart that neither side has yet had the lessure to grasp what it is like to live in the enlarged, unequal new Germany. The coming year will show whether Germans east and west are willing to make the sacrifices necessary to make reunification a part of daily life rather than a mere mantra-like ode to oneness intoned by politicians whenever awkward questions about the cost and risks are raised.



itation 500 Deutschmark note was this year's most popular Christmas card, as millions faced unemploym

The three months that have elapsed since reunification on October 3 have been spent on the hold button. During that time, Chancellor Kohl cannily decided that nothing should be allowed to interfere with his smooth progress to re-election, and until it was assured, painful decisions were suspended: unemployment, for instance, was disguised behind the flimsy euphemism of "Short time working - zero hours".

The interregnum ends on New Year's Eve. January 1 is the date favoured by most large enterprises for rationalisation measures based on mass redundancies. Short-time working is set to become no-time working across the stricken agricultural swathes of the north and the obsolete industrial belts of the south. Unemployment in a working population of 12 million has every prospect of comfortably exceeding two million as the subsidies provided by Bonn for this economic panacea dry up.

ith the Soviet Union on the brink of turmoil and the other economies of central Europe unendowed by the fiscal fairy godmother that has rescued east Germany from the chaos of socialist planning, the fears in the five new Lander pale in comparison. But East Germans - unlike their neighbours in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary are not nourished by the sustain-ing power of belief in a national identity. The communists elsewhere tried to suppress it - and thus watered the plant they sought to wither. In the GDR they tried to promote it in the formula of "two German nations, one bourgeois, one socialist, which was so tortuous that even Erich Honecker's parroting diplomats had trouble remembering the official

explanation behind it. This has the result of making many east Germans suspicious of lofty rhetoric and quickly sated with the Einheitsosse (unity gravy) in which political discourse is currently drenched. For the majority of those too young to remember pre-war Germany, unity is less an affair of the heart than the wallet they appreciate the small, practical liberties and the simple luxury of choice more than the grand freeing of the German spirit.

This year has brought a wel-come collapse for a weary people into the strong arms of successful capitalism — with the suave guarantee of Adenauer's promised "No experiments" — after 40 years in the human laboratory of Marxism-Leninism. Like a Dickénsian parent, Chancellor Kohl has to promote virtue around the hearth this Christmas. He must find a way to sell patience to the frustrated east and sharing to the grudging west. His current strategy is to remonstrate in fatherly fashion that the good of the German family is more important than the Christmas demands of the two sides as Ossi-child clamours for higher wages, while Wessi-child pules about not eating up his tax rises

But after Twelfth Night he will let the brats whinge unattended the east while hiding tax increases to finance unity behind environmental and transport levies in the west. As for the green Herr Fischer, this means treating the state merger of last October as a symbolic rather than practical unification for the time being, with a tacit agreement that the two siblings will not get along

until they are older. Chancellor Kohl's fondness for the rhetoric of unity is often stressed at the expense of his pragmatic streak. He has probably realised that 1991 will be the year that east Germany grows tired of being told how grateful it should be for the Deutschmark and reunification, and the year that west Germany grows tired of having to be nice to the east. Sensing this, he has already dampened his poetic licence. The once unavoidable address "Brothers and sisters" disappeared practically overnight in October when the estranged siblings were finally back under one roof. Speechwriters will now take second place to accountants.

Beside the economic headaches

of the present, the new Germany must come to terms with the hangover of the past. More than a year after its fall, the legacy of the Honecker regime continues to cast a long shadow over the country. The monstrous and sprawling Statisticherheit that held east German society in its vice looks like turning into a political tool wielded by the main parties to keep eastern politicians out of positions of influence. Even if this is not the case, more could be done

to avoid the impression.

Lothar de Maizière, deputy leader of the Christian Democrats and East Germany's last prime minister, discovered the limitations of his party's goodwill when it failed to support him last week in the face of persistent but filmsy allegations launched by unknown sources that he was a secret police informer. The move, which was considered a prophylactic against future scandal, divests the east of any real representation at senior decision-making level in Bonn and may well retard the political integration of east Germany by discouraging easterners from political involvement, on the grounds that as soon as they get anywhere near local, regional or national office, someone will whisper "Stasi" and it will all be over.

err de Maizière's fail will not be an isolated incident, and the legacy of the Stasi is the main moral challenge facing Chancellor Kohl. Simply dropping those whose names are blackened, fairly or otherewise, by undeclared hands is demoralising and ensures that the influence of the apparatus continues to poison the wells of the new deomocracy. Perversely, the organisation they used to call "Look, Listen and Grab" appears more sinister now than at the height of its powers, stalking the government and public life in a western democracy a year after its own dissolution.

The conundrum is how to prevent the past of the divided Germany burdening the future of the reunified one. The Federal Republic faced the same hurdle in

1951 when the Social Democratic leader Kurt Schumacher opened the discussion of the future of Waffen SS members in the new democracy. He wrote, "By methodic ensnarement, all totalitarian systems have succeeded in making their guilt the guilt of all. It is a human and civic necessity now to break this circle."

To break a similar circle of distrust and resentment now will mean a deepening of the superficial contacts between the parties and institutions in the two parts of Germany and the pursuit of generosity as a political as well as a private goal. A clear look at the past will not leave the alumni of the modern Federal Republic unscathed. There are already writhings about the extent to which the late Bavarian premier Franz Josef Strauss was entangled with the regime. The SPD stubbornly adhered to rapprochem with the Honecker regime well past the point of usefulness, and Chancellor Kohl received Herr Honecker with full honours a

mere four years ago. Until the beginning of 1990, neither East nor West Germany believed reunification would Those in the east sought to improve their chances and their children's futures inside the cosy, repressive state socialism of the GDR. Those in the west accepted and co-operated with that system in an attempt to normalise an abnormal state of affairs.

As Germany enters the new ear, its unity is only begin True integration will take longer, dogged by economic imperatives, social inferiority and superiority complexes and the bitter, inevitable necessity of facing up to the failures of the years apart. The veteran Ostpolitiker Egon Bahr recently summarised his country's position in words that could serve as the national motto for 1991: "We are now faced with the problems we always dreamed of having. It is wonderful."

Tomorrow

Roger Boyes reports on Christmas in Poland

### How ruffled you can be...

hen the Times Diary was resurrected in April, readers enquired what was the column's raison d'être. We replied: to provide stories that lived up to the advice of a famous Fleet Street diary editor that a good diary item should be on an ue of concern to readers and should contain "one fact, one generalisation and preferably one very slight inaccuracy".

Nine months later and with the Diary postbag to hand, the real concerns of the Times Diary readers can be revealed. During 1990, it turns out, they were not concerned unduly by the Gulf, home politics or even the World Cup. No. Our largest mail-bags were produced by stories about Arthur Ransome's Swallows and Amazons, Bestrix Potter's Peter Rabbit, Richmal Crompton's Just William, and BBC Radio's longdistant Toytown.

Where, for example, was the archetypal English village in which the schoolboy ruffian William lived? A Harrow classics master produced a map "proving" it was in Oxfordshire. Others cited 1930s rail timerables and a study of the commuting habits of William's father to claim it was Bromley in Kent. One was left agreeing with William: all grown-

ups are mad. A Diary tale that a film was being made of The Adventures of Peter Rabbit kept the letters editor busy for several weeks and even provoked a leading article. Earlier in the year it had seemed that half the paper's readers were scouring the country looking for a suitable bird to play Captain Flint's green talking parrot at the sixtieth Swallows and Amazons birthday party at Windermere.

Angry correspondence followed the Diary's report of Clive Ponting's claim that the voice in a recording of Churchill's "we shall fight on the beaches" speech was not that of the great man but of the actor who played Larry the Lamb in Toytown. Strangely, not a single letter objected to the slight on Churchill's reputation. What upset Times readers far more was that we could so confuse our Toytown characters. The actor who claimed to have imitated Churchill, it turned out, had not played Larry the Lamb, but the Magician.

What this tells us about our readers is probably best left to the nsychologists. But one doubts that if, heaven forbid, the Diary ever started writing about Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, the response would be quite the same or indeed, that they will be remembered by anyone in 50

Lands of hoarding

hen not recording stories about the world of children's classics, the Diary was kept busy noting the seachange in the world of advertising during the year. Although the industry was in recession in the developed world, many formerly deprived countries were discover-ing the wonders of advertising Lech Walesa, we recorded, signed up to promote Mariboro cigarettes and walked straight into a dispute with the anti-smoking lobby. At home, his government was selling Warsaw's top hotel to Trusthouse Forte, a company not noted for its support of Solidarity, or any other trade union for that matter. A London company spent the year busily transforming Prague's gothic skyline with Piccadilly

Circus-style advertising, while

Moscow's chandeliered underground network was also being disfigured with neon ads. Even Pravda, required reading for party purists since 1917, began soliciting western capitalist advertising in 1990. A spokesman even asked if the Diary could try to persuade a certain Rupert Murdoch to put a little advertising Pravda's way.

Unsilly season

hen along came Saddam Hussein. Just as newspapers were preparing stories about fresh sightings of the Loch Ness monster and other such staples of the silly sesson, the Gulf crupted. The conflict was a godsend for diarists, although not for Sir Crispin Tickell, then our man at the United Nations. He was forced, the Diary revealed, to cancel a trip to the Montana badlands in search of dinosaur eggs. The emergency also proved somewhat inconvenient for Harold "Hooky" Walker, ambassador in Baghdad, who was on holiday

Iragis invaded Kuwait. Who had given him leave to pack his bags? "He would have had to apply for leave in the normal way. The application would have been dealt with at senior official or min-isterial level," said the Foreign Office. Which minister or official was not a matter for discussion in the Diary or elsewhere, the FO insisted curtly.

Not that Whitehall could complain about Walker. Most of the cabinet also responded by taking a holiday. The Diary wondered who was left behind to mind the shop and came up with Charles Powell the Downing Street aide, who did what most of his bosses failed to do and cancelled a walking holi-

day in France. Meanwhile, the Diary itself was asked to visit Baghdad after it discovered that the Iraqi culture ministry's office in London was still issuing invitations to an international arts festival, planned for October. Dismissing what it called "these little local difficulties", the office faxed an invitation proclaiming: "Iraq, the country of peace, welcomes world

Funny, indeed or two weeks last month all other news was cancelled as an astonished Britain watched the ending of an era. The Conservative leadership contest produced some bitter feuding among old friends, and perfect fodder for the Diary.

Denis Thatcher, we learned, was most upset with Sir Neil Macfarlane, his erstwhile partner on the links, who was a prominent member of Michael Heseltine's campaign. "You can't play golf with a man one day and savage his wife the next," said the then plain

Mr Thatcher to friends at the 19th. By a stroke of luck rather than any inside knowledge, the Diary ran a speculative piece on November 22 headed "Pensioner, but plenty to offer", wondering what former prime ministers did in retirement in Dulwich. By 9.37 that morning the question had become a real one. The following day, the Diary catalogued the reaction of prominent people when they heard the news. "It may very seriously dent my career, but I am still delighted, said John Wells, the satirist who has made a fortune out of imitating Sir Denis.

Two catch-phrases came to epitomise the change of prime minister. First was Mrs Thatcher's 'It's a funny old world". Then, presiding over his first cabinet meeting. John Major greeted his colleagues with the words: "Well, who would have thought it?"

 In the year that Britain ceased to be an island, British Rail offered a pair of tickets on the first Channel tunnel train to any Times reader who came up with a suitable name for the new service. Hundreds of suggestions were forwarded to BR. "I suggest Mirage," wrote Rodney Miskin from Surrey, "something illusory and far away." Another reader sug-gested Orpheus: "He made a successful return journey below ground even if he failed to bring back what he went for." "The Wellington would commemorate a man who did much to bring peace to Europe and give assurance to dry feet," suggested another. A number of the ideas submitted have made it to the shortlist. But with no decision seven months after suggestions were invited, this part of the project is by no means high-speed. The Diary's own favourite? Manche-tout.

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a the Football League : Minds and 15 players were serviced Sinds) and Sunday in England. is since the season began, against is land the season began 254455 respectively residents may have lightened.

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Widnes and Leeds, Leeds had a power was kneeling on the ground.

But the same of ا حكداً من الاصل

unbridgeable, to negotiable dimensions.

Above all, the agreement should reduce the

danger that the militants would succeed in

their cynical use of The Satanic Verses

quarrel to gain leadership among Britain's

unstable million-plus Muslim population.

Until now, moderate Muslims who defied the

extremists were themselves at risk. Dr

Hesham El-Essawy, president of the Islamic

Society for the Promotion of Religious

Tolerance and the main architect of the deal,

of moderate Muslim leadership, and for the

utter repudiation by such leaders of the wild

talk - barely if at all on the right side of the

law - of such as Dr Kalim Siddiqui of the

London-based Muslim Institute. The con-

troversy over The Satanic Verses has drawn

attention to several weaknesses in the law,

not the least of which is the difficulty the

authorities have had in prosecuting those in

Britain (Dr Siddiqui included) who have

sincerity of Mr Rushdie's apparently sudden

reconciliation with the Muslim faith, though

his latest actions do throw a new light on his

There are no grounds for doubting the

called publicly for Mr Rushdie's murder.

The way is now open for a strong assertion

descrees credit for his courage.

old how

DECEMBER 26 1990



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Temerres. 



FAITH MOVES A MOUNTAIN The spirit of Christmas goodwill received an unexpected bonus when it was announced now thinks there should be no paperback, justifying those Muslims who have said the on Christmas Eve that Salman Rushdie and a group of Muslim representatives had been same all along. If he is against a paperback reconciled. The agreement, essentially that edition, for which there would presumably there will be no paperback of The Satanic be a large sale, what is the point in the more Verses nor further publication in translation, expensive hardback remaining on sale? He has not satisfied militant Muslims in Britain could have argued at any time in the past year that his "message" - whatever it was - was sufficiently disseminated. Mr Rushdie or abroad, notably Iran. But it brings a gap between the two sides, which had looked still seems part-prisoner of an assorted group Those Muslims who remain intransigent of secular intellectuals who, for a while, now risk isolation from the majority of their made him their proto-martyr for free speech - a group which would surely have co-religionists in Britain, who were never as demanded the legal suppression of a book adamant as the extremists tried to pretend.

offending Jews or blacks. The fatwa imposed by the late Ayatollah Khomeini 22 months ago remains an intolerable intrusion into British affairs as well as an appalling advertisement for Islam in the West. Mr Rushdie remains at risk and will need to be guarded for some while yet. The Iranian authorities must find a way formally to declare that the fatwa is at an end, and to release British prisoners who

have, in effect, been hostages to this cause. The British government, for its part, should look again at the archaic blasphemy law. Enlarging it to encompass more than Christianity is likely to make legal intrusion into religious affairs more rather than less fraught, but Muslim complaints of unfairness to non-Christian faiths in British law were justified. Whether there is room in race relations legislation for the outlawing of insults against a person on the grounds of religion, as there is already on the grounds of race, remains to be tested. The principle, as a modest buttress of pluralist tolerance, is sound. But as The Satanic Verses controversy has shown, Britain has a long way to go in learning to live with religious diversity. The proper role for the law in all previous stance. Having embraced Islam, he this is still uncertain.

### **ROMANIA'S SAD YEAR**

Romania's Christmas upheaval a year ago made a deep impression on the outside world. The images were those of classic revolution: the dictator driven from his balcony by an enraged crowd, the ruthless massacre at Timisoara, the chaotic television broadcasts, the trial and execution of the Ceansescus, all carried round the world by the broadcast media. But ever since last December, the impression has grown that the surface appearance gave a false version of those events.

Today's interview in The Times with the dictator's dying son, Nicu, shows just how far from the truth were those accounts. There was indeed a popular revolt, ignited at first by the attempt to banish the Hungarianspeaking pastor, Laszlo Tokes, from Timisoara. Later, when Ceausescu failed to react quickly enough, the revolt spread to Bucharest and other cities. The army indeed helped to depose him; there were authentic dissidents among those who formed the National Salvation Front after his fall.

There the facts end, the mythology begins. Ceausescu's overthrow had been prepared. with Moscow's blessing, by a disaffected wing of the party which numbered nearly all the members of Romania's present leadership. Nicu claims that one of the factors persuading his father to hang on was a determination not to give in to Moscow. The Romanian revolution was a coup d'état designed to keep a reformed and renamed communist clique in power.

To that end the chief conspirators made skilful use of the media, both domestic and foreign, to exaggerate the scale of the fighting and the casualties. Bogus battles raged in the streets. In some cases massacres were invented. Television conveyed the impression that the hated Securitate, having fought to the death for the dictator, had now been destroyed. The secret police's survival into the new regime was thereby greatly eased. The mock heroics which the West mistook for revolutionary acts merely helped to bolster the National Salvation Front in power, even when most genuine dissidents speedily resigned from it.

In the past year the insufficiency of the Christmas "revolution" has become steadily more apparent. After the martial triumph, freedom arrived on tiptoe. In March an anti-Hungarian mob in Tirgu Mures slaughtered several members of the Magyar minority, raising fears that the sinister organisation, Vatra Romaneasca, was preparing a massacre with the government's approval.

The election campaign which ended in May was marked by serious malpractices. The result, a victory for the Front, was helped by the divisions among the opposition parties. In June President Iliescu ordered trainloads of miners into Bucharest to intimidate his opponents. Since then attempts have been made to build a broadlybased opposition movement, but without much success. The command economy has failed to revive and the government has no idea how to create a market economy. There is little for Romanians to celebrate this Christmas, and little for them to celebrate with. This was the only "anti-communist" revolution in Eastern Europe at which much blood was shed: was it shed for this?

The best hope in Romania now is that calls for a second, but this time real, revolution are multiplying. The Front's monopoly on power may even collapse before the winter is out. Romania is still an inward-looking country, but the superiority of life in the outside world cannot be kept secret for much longer. As Bishop Tokes wrote in a memoir of last year's uprising, "Communism destroyed the old structures of society and had no idea how to build new ones. . . I feel myself to be living in the ruins of an old society." Yesterday ex-King Michael unexpectedly returned to view those ruins. Perhaps, a year on, Romania may have something to celebrate after all.

### FOUL PROFESSIONALS

Last weekend was the worst for ill-discipline in the Football League's 102-year-old history. A total of 15 players were sent off last Saturday and Sunday in England, making 105 since the season began, against 89 at this stage last year. Although certainly refereeing standards may have tightened, the fact remains that football has been struggling to improve its European image of late. While supporters may have behaved better, the players have gone from bad to worse.

American ice hockey followers have a saying: "I went to the big fight and a game of ice hockey broke out." One reason is widely held to be the use in that sport of something called a "sin bin", in which offending players are publicly confined for a short sentence. The sin bin has spread to Britain, in rugby league, where it has been controversial since its introduction in 1983. There is now talk of introducing it to football and rugby union, both recent hit by a plague of sendings off.

This would be a bad mistake. In icehockey the sin bin has lost its impact as a form of public disgrace. Quite apart from the inverted glory of being "troublesome", players make deliberate calculations of whether ten minutes in the sin bin is worth dangerously inhibiting a potential goalscorer. The sin bin is merely a cowardly halfway house between letting a player get away with foul play and sending him off the field. Sports that use sin bins do so in the knowledge that spectators enjoy watching a certain amount of violence, and do not want violent players banished from the game for

In a recent rugby league match between too long. Widnes and Leeds, Leeds had a player sent to the sin bin for punching a Widnes player who was kneeling on the ground. Spectators

De sent pack across me Anamor formwith. I government.

Abergavenny, Gwent.

who wondered what a player had to do to be expelled from the match had but a few minutes to wait. Another Leeds player hit an opponent. The culprit broke off listening to his warning from the referee to punch a second Widnes player. This was going too far and he was indeed sent off. But only on the sports field would such behaviour in public fail to provoke an immediate arrest by any police who were present.

Team sports are being corrupted by the concept of the "professional foul", for which lax penalties such as warnings and sin bins are no answer. This euphemism describes deliberate cheating, usually to prevent a worse outcome than the punishment due, such as an unavoidable and commercially costly goal. Outside the field of sport, the professional foul, of which insider trading is perhaps a fair parallel, is simply illegal and lands the perpetrator in jail.

Football referees have a hard time balancing the impact on the game and its players of the system of yellow and red cards - two of the former equalling the latter so a repeating minor offender is sent off automatically. Rugby league, which has become one of Britain's better run sports and from which football's muddled, two-tier administration could imitate, merely damages its reputation by sometimes seeming to treat violent behaviour as if it was a peccadillo,

even a badge of manliness. Rugby, football, tennis, are all sports that act as templates for sporting behaviour, especially by the young. They should be much tougher on dissent against a referee's (or umpire's) decision and tougher still on violence. The sin bin is no answer, it should exercised by this market-orientated be sent back across the Atlantic forthwith. . | government.

"Proportionality of response"? Who in advance can judge, with the required certainty, the duration of a war, its geographical extent, the number and nationality of those involved, their gender and age, their status - combatant or non-combat-

Clergy attitudes to the threat of war

criteria?

be arrived at? Take "right inten-

tion". In whose mind is that to be formulated, and who is to judge

whether it exists, and by what

ant - the type of weapons that will

be employed from start to finish, and the casualties? "Certainty of

victory"? Just remember the "Rus-

sian steamroller" of 1914; Hitler's "thousand-year Reich." I could go on. Not surprisingly, even if the criteria are applied with greater

objectivity than in the document in question, the conclusion has to be

that war in the Gulf will be unjust.

But so will any other war to which they are applied. In other words, the

criteria are really a cloak for total

From Monsignor Patrick O'Mahony

Sir, I feel that Clifford Longley is

rather unfair about the private

Christian statement of the "reli-

gentsia" when he describes the

document as intellectually shoddy

and a pathetic tissue. I would agree

that it lacks rigour, but it is a serious

attempt to apply the just war principles to the Gulf situation.

My quarrel with the argument is

that it suggests that a just war

promotes a just peace. This is not

necessarily so. Nor is it clear that it

would be better to allow Saddam to

incorporate Kuwait into Iraq than to

fight a war. It is very doubtful that

this could be described as a just

It is sad that Western states have

supplied much of the technology of

death with which we are now

threatened. Surely, in a nuclear age,

we must change our focus on war

and arms-sales to peace and dev-

This entails more concentration

on people and less on states. But

here of course, is one of the most agonising problems of our time —

namely, how to switch from loyal-

ties that are primarily nation-

centred to a new set of loyalties

which accept the fact that we are a

planetary society and one, single

PATRICK O'MAHONY (Chairman.

Commissioner's negotiating flexibil-

ity; but it is nonsense to suggest that

the American tactics were any more

From Lord Willoughby de Broke

Sir, The tone of recent Times

round of talks has become increas-

inely strident, culminating in the

intemperate and unhelpful outburst

in your leader of December 13. This

referred to the "monstrously cor-

rupt" common agricultural policy,

culture be excluded from further

European agriculture remains cen-

tral to any progress in Gatt. Mr MacSharry, the Commissioner, should be congratulated, not pillor-ied, for his refusal to be railroaded

into concessions damaging to Europe's

agricultural and social structure.

Yours faithfully.

The fact is that a fair deal for

participation in the talks.

Commission for Justice, Peace

and Overseas Development,

Our Lady of the Wayside,

Stratford Road, Shirley,

Solihull, West Midlands.

Archdiocese of Birmingham),

community.

līberal.

Yours sincerely,

ALAN AMOS,

House of Commons

elopment of the whole planet.

Yours sincerely.

D. FLESSATI,

December 20.

1 Sylvan Avenue, N3.

reservations found in Church circles on the subject of a Gulf war necessarily derive from anti-Ameri-can, anti-statist, or anti-military neuroses ("An elite with no answer", December 15). On the con-trary: informed Western clergy who take seriously the New Testament injunction to "do good especially to those who are of the household of the faith" will have uppermost in their minds, at the present juncture, the fate of the Christian peoples of the Middle East.

From Father Aidan Nichols, OP

Sir, Clifford Longley, following the cue of the Anglican bishop of

Oxford, is wrong to assume that the

صكدا سالاصل

For the Catholic Church, at any rate, there can be no apostolic prudence in supporting the wresting of Kuwait from iraq's control at the cost of a war which will strengthen the positions of Syria, the rapist of the Maronite Lebanon; of Iran, the inflamer of pan-islamic feeling throughout the region; and of Saudi Arabia, whose refusal to permit the construction of Christian places of worship is well known. It will also provide <u>Israel with</u> a possible excuse for expelling as Iraqi sympathisers, its Melchite and Latin-Christian

Arab populations. If Kuwaiti identity is truly distinct, it will survive a period of Iraqi domination, as did Austria its decade of incorporation in the German Reich. Meanwhile, the demands of secular political rationality are sufficiently met by subjecting Iraq to diplomatic isola-tion and economic penalty, and blocking any further territorial aggression by military compacts that give the clear signal "Thus far (for the time being), but no further". Yours sincerely,

AIDAN NICHÓLS. Blackfriars, Buckingham Road, Cambridge. From Mr Dominic Flessati

Sir, A key element in the "shoddiness" of the document issued on November 26 over the signatures of 100 churchmen, ecclesiastical and lay, is that its argument is couched in terms of the Christian doctrine about a just war. Clifford Longley is

right to castigate it.
The document is indeed as neat a piece of theoretical reasoning as ever emerged from scholastic theology. In practice, however, it is useless, because it is impossible to satisfy, in advance as is required, any one of its several criteria for declaring a war just, let alone all of them at once, as is also required.

Take, for instance, the "last resort" criterion. Who is to judge when all diplomatic means, including in the present case sanctions, have been exhausted; and by what further criteria is that judgment to

**Future of Gatt** From Mr Alan Amos, MP for

Sir, Contrary to your supposition of the European Community's responsibility for the interruption of the Gatt talks (leading article, December 13), the talks would not have faltered had the United States treated its own farmers in the manner it considered appropriate for their European counterparts.

The American position was disingenuous from the start, and it is to be regretted that their trade representatives had no intention of entering genuine and detailed discussions on areas of disagreement, apparently preferring instead the farcical process of conducting complex and vital negotiations through media intermediaries.

You attacked the agriculture commissioner's role without acknowledging that he is constrained by the views of the more protectionist of the European farm ministers. It is true that such political considcrations, albeit based on the real difficulties that farmers will face in adjusting to the post-Gatt world, placed an undue constraint on the

Potter on hunting From Mr Henry Moore

Sir, Ronald Faux, writing about Beatrix Potter's apparent lack of support for fox hunting (report, December 14), appears to have forgotten the story of Jemima Puddle Duck. But then, Sir, you may be biased, for the villain of that tale could well have been an avid reader of The Times: "Seated upon a stump she was startled to find an elegantly dressed gentleman, reading a newspaper".

However, in the end, good triumphs over evil and our heroine is rescued by a collie dog and two foxhound puppies. "And nothing more was ever seen of that foxy whiskered gentleman.". The picture shows the three dogs in full chase. Yours faithfully

HENRY MOORE, Shucknall Court, Hereford.

Letting of property From Mr A. Hutchison

Sir, The minister for bousing and planning wishes to discover why recent legislation designed to encourage letting of property by private landlords has failed (report, December 11).

Such legislation has been directed towards the letting of vacant properties, which can now be let on assured shorthold tenancies at market rents. However, there is still a rump of pre-1988 Housing Act tenancies occupied by tenants on a regulated basis, and paying what is ironically termed a "fair rent". Experience discloses that these rents are anything but fair, and must surely be one of the last controls

WILLOUGHBY de BROKE. House of Lords. From Mr Anthony Gaddum

Sir, Whatever Beatrix Potter's views on hunting, they cannot have been very strong. Her residuary legatees were Jim and Molly Gaddum, the children of her double first-cousin, Edith Gaddum.

Jim was master of the Windermere Harriers from 1923 until his death in 1956. Molly's great interest was the Ludlow Hunt, of which she and her husband. Jack Payne, were honorary secretaries for 25 years. Their love of blood sports was known by their cousin Beatrix and evidently made no difference to her regard for them. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ANTHONY GADDUM, Lane Ends House, Sutton Lane Ends. Nr Macclesfield, Cheshire. December 14.

Two events are required before there can be any confidence by private landlords in providing nomes for rent First the so-called "fair rent" system must be abolished, and market rents apply to all existing and future lettings, with assistance to the needy funded from the abolition of mortgage interest tax relief. The resulting investment value of the property will then improve, and it will be less likely to be sold off to an owner-occupier

when vacant possession occurs. Secondly, there must be a consensus of policy by the major political parties, with a firm commitment not to legislate in the future for rent controls.

Yours faithfully, A. HUTCHISON, Wern-y-Cwm, Llandewi Skirrid, Abergavenny, Gwent.

## 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Nostalgic anchors to Britain's past

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

in the first instance, on perfor-mances of operas by Gilbert and mances or operas by Chibert and Sullivan. They engender in the British (and especially in the Eng-lish) a nostalgic fondness for Brit-ain's imperial past which is a serious

Everything associated with that past, from lord chancellors and the like in fancy dress to light-hearted, bone-headed military men in scarlet, gives credence to the idea that great alth flows effortlessly and unceas-

they caricatured is still with us.

persist in the yearning for the old

standards, including the gold stan-

From the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Strathclyde

obstacle to change and reform.

ingly from such cultivated minds.

The facts are that our wealth-creating apparatus, in the form of business and industry, continues to decline almost monotonically, and has done so since those operas were first performed. This is not to blame Gilbert and Sullivan, as such, for our steadily worsening trade deficit but rather to point out that the society responsible for it and which

Antiquated attitudes to education

dard, as expressed in examination forms hardly changed in a bundred

Sir, I would like to propose that years. New skills, new knowledge there be a moratorium, for five years and new attitudes are already with us, and our failure to let go of the old is not to be excused by the low price we attach to it.

Perhaps Gilbert and Sullivan are.

like the pound sterling and the pint. anchors to a past so much more certain than our future that we dare not let it go. The price of clinging to it rather than embracing our future in Europe or elsewhere is, as we have seen, rather high. Looking forward rather than backward will engender robustness as opposed to nostalgia. Once Britain is economically robust again, we can then afford to be nostalgic, musically or

I am sure we would all love to be gifted amateurs, or at least amateurs. The trouble is that all our competitors are professionals and know it.

Yours faithfully, GRAHAM HILLS, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Strathchyde, Glasgow I.

Gordievsky's family From Lord Bethell, MEP for London North West (European Democrat

(Conservative)) Sir, I write to raise the case of the family of Oleg Gordievsky, the former KGB agent whose memoirs The Times recently serialised (October 13-17). His wife and children have been refused permission to leave Russia, where I recently visited them.

Many people in this country seem to accept the Soviet government's decision. They feel, it seems, that Mr Gordievsky betrayed the KGB so seriously that he cannot expect to obtain the release of his wife and daughters.

It seems to me pure Stalinism for a wife and two small girls to be punished for something done by their husband or father. Almost anyone is being allowed to leave the Soviet Union these days, but Mrs Gordievsky is being kept in Russia and under constant surveillance. even though she is a totally innocent party. It has never been alleged that she was his accomplice.

In 1985, when he defected, it was unthinkable that she would be allowed to join him, but things have

Filling in at the Tate From the Director of the Tate Gallery

Sir. In view of the letter published today from Mr Thomas Osborne, it slow to scoff at the achievements of modern sculptors (letter from A. may be appropriate to make it clear that arrangements for the Christmas Kenneth Snowman, December 20). However, they are eventually sivacation have in no way impeded lenced by the volume of interthe progress of the appeal of the claim, as happened with Henry Moore and now Richard hearing as possible, it was the court,

articles dealing with the current Gatt going on to offer the astonishing suggestion that the European Commissioner responsible for agri-

> At Millbank a new cycle of displays involving changes to 70 per that the hearing of the full appeal cent of our rooms will be open in should start on Monday, February January. This will include several 25, 1991. works not seen for 30 or 40 years, including sculpture by early twentieth-century artists Lambert, Wheeler, Dobson and McMillan, which might satisfy Mr Snowman's taste, if not his laudable wish to put our roof

Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1. December 20.

Out for the count From Mrs G. W. Lancaster Sir, I see (report, December 12) that staff (presumably several) at Ged-ling borough council, spent three hours counting someone's poll tax which had been paid in 21,862 pennies. Surely they could have checked it in a matter of minutes by weighing and simple arithmetic. How would our local authority have coped if we had tried the same stunt when paying our £1,964 rates? Yours etc., LORNA LANCASTER,

Byways, Ayres End Lane, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Unnecessary load

From Miss Sarah Quill Sir, Recently, and rather too frequently, the use of the noun "rubbish" as a transitive verb has crept into many newspapers It is becoming difficult to remember what people used before the arrival of this euphemism for words such as "criticize" and "run down" (a shade too mild?) or "attack" and "denigrate" (alarmingly provocative?)
It will be a relief when this philological dilemma is resolved, so

that "rubbish" can be returned to the dustbin where it belongs.

Yours faithfully, SARAH QUILL, 2 St Peter's Court, Porchester Road, W2.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number (071) 782 5046.

now changed. We are told that the Cold War is over and that our relations with the Soviet Union are friendly. Their representatives come to London and ask for gifts of food, to be paid for by British taxpayers. The families of British spies who

defected to Russia were never punished in this way. Donald Maclean's wife, Kim Philby's son and George Blake's mother travelled frequently to Moscow. There was no way under English law of preventing them, since they had committed no

Margaret Thatcher and Douglas Hurd have several times raised the case with Soviet counterparts, but without success. It is an irritant in British-Soviet relations, even though the British side have so far said little about it publicly.
It shows how the KGB can still

have the last word on matters where they feel particularly strongly and that there is another side to Mr Gorbachev's great liberalisation. Things cannot be that good if the KGB are still capable of being so nasty to a woman and two children.

Yours sincerely, NICHOLAS BETHELL, 73 Sussex Square Gardens, W2, December 24.

From the Registrar of Criminal

In order to secure as early a

of its own initiative, which directed

that the preliminary hearing should

be held on Monday of this week. At

that hearing, the court heard sub-

missions from counsel for both the

Crown and the appellants, and was

informed that the final report of the

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

might well be of assistance to the

appellants, through further material

which might then be disclosed to the

On being told that the report was

nary hearing should be held as early

as possible in February. It indicated

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**Birmingham Six** 

Appeals

Crown.

Sir, The English have never been

Long.
We welcome Mr Snowman's interest in our roof, though it seems to have escaped his attention that less and less of our reserve is "languishing". In recent years the opening of the Clore Gallery for the Turner Bequest and the Tate Gallery, Liverpool, as well as the introduction of a new policy of rotating the collections on Millbank, have done much to ensure that most British and modern art may be seen. Next year we plan an exhibition of Turner oils in the regions and displays of expected at the end of January, the Spencer and recent British painting court directed that a second prelimiin Norwich.

into an acceptable state of repair. Yours faithfully, NICHOLAS SEROTA, Director,

Capital strategy

MICHAEL McKENZIE,

Royal Courts of Justice.

Registrar of Criminal Appeals,

Yours faithfully.

Strand, WC2.

December 20.

From Mrs F. M. Manisty Sir, Our children (aged ten, eight, and seven) are spending hours playing Monopoly. Whilst they observe the given rules rigorously, the following profoundly radical strategies have quickly emerged: 1. Make your cash work for you.

Debt is preferable to sale of properties. 2. The two younger ones form an operating partnership when both deeply in debt. In practice this doesn't help much but cheers them both up immeasurably.

3. When debts are all beyond the mathematics of the banker, all are cancelled. 4. If one player becomes revoltingly

rich the others receive sudden cash hand-outs. 5. The aims of the game become to

keep it going "for ever" or bankrupt the bank (public enemy no 1. despite charging no interest) Are my children mugs or the industrialists of the future?

Yours faithfully, FIONA M MÁNISTY, Hambledon Lodge, Main Street Chackmore, Buckingham December 18.

TV sales talk From Mr J. O. Hitchcock

Sir, The quiz shows on television I like best are the advertisements: trying to guess what is being advertised. I get about 70 per cent right. Yours faithfully,

Nr Sevenoaks, Kent. December 20.

J. O. HITCHCOCK. High House, Underriver,

Office **127)** (7) ₩ħ (7) -0

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## SOCIAL **NEWS**

**Birthdays** 

Professor C.M. Campbell, vice-

chancellor, Nottingham Univer-sity, 46; Mr Patric Dickinson,

poet and playwright, 76; Ms Alastair Dunnett, former chair-

man, Thomson Scottish Petro-leum, 82; Baroness Faithfull, 80;

Sir Christopher Hewetson, for

mer president, Law Society, 61; Mr Rohan Kanhai, cricketer, 55;

Mr Eric Kinder, chairman, Smith and Nephew, 63; Profes-

**Anniversaries** 

BIRTHS: Thomas Gray, poet, London, 1716; Charles Babbage,

pioneer of calculating machines, Totnes, 1792; Dion Boucicault,

logist, Naples, 1890; James Ste-

today

### **Forthcoming** marriages Mr P.R.N. Childs

and Miss F.J. Madeley The engagement is announced between Peter Robin Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs C.E.N. Childs, of Chorley Wood, Hertfordshire, and Fiona Jane, daughter of Professor and Mrs C.R. Madeley, of Stocksfield, Northumberland.

Mr A.K. Fox and Miss J. Warren-Smith The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of the late Mr K.H.L. Fox and of Mrs E.J. Fox, of Maidenhead, Berkshire, and Jennifer, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.L. Warren-Smith, of St John's Wood,

### War and Peace Ball

The third War and Peace Ball will be held at the Cafe Royal, on February 1, 1991. Dress will be optional 1812 costume. Tickets are available from: Mrs Michael Cripps, 47 Elms Road, London, SW4 9EP. Telephone: 071-720 9219.

### Inns of Court studentships

Studentships have been awarded to the following people for 1991/93:

Ann Bevitt, Grav's Inn. Chairmeford

## Ramblers campaign for parks protection

By Peter Davenport

THE Ramblers' Association Wales. The association wants will fight for increased protect the national parks' review tion against "horrendous" panel, whose report is due in pressures for development in February, to signal the way national parks, it says today in ahead for the parks over the priorities for 1991 ☐ legislation to safeguard

It also calls for the creation hedgerows which, the associof internationally recognised ation says, are disappearing in national parks in Scotland, England and Wales at a rate of particularly to protect the 4,000 miles a year. It conpriceless scenery and wild demus recent government character" of the Cairngorms, proposals to pay compensa-Ben Nevis, Glen Coe and tion to farmers who do not

och Lomond. destroy hedgerows as "too Alan Martingley, the associ- feeble": ation's director, says in a | full planning control over Christmas message to all Brit-ish branches: "With all signs buildings. The association pointing to a general election says there is no longer any case in 1991 our main aim must be for treating farm buildings to persuade all political parties differently from other to promise to take firm mea-commercial and industrial sures in the next parliament to buildings. protect and extend public access to countryside through- also campaign against: out Britain."

The association says that woods and forests being sold public support for its aims has by the Forestry Commission; never been stronger. It now the illegal ploughing or has more than 80,000 individ- cropping of footpaths and ual members, with member- other rights of way; ship increasing by ten per cent acrving up of green belts a year and 800 affiliated clubs around cities where devel-

Next year it will intensify a relaxation of planning campaigns for: □ all political parties to □ the government's current promise in their election plans for legislation on commanifestos to protect the mon land. The association countryside and public access accuses the government of with legislation to give legal caving in to the demands of right of access, on foot, to all grouse moor owners and their moorland, mountain and gamekeepers: other uncultivated open country in Britain, subject to a private bill promoted by necessary restrictions to safe- British Rail aimed at closing

the creation of intering the London-Edinburgh national recognised national rail line. The association says parks in Scotland; D better protection for the 11 ful it will close hundreds more national parks in England and paths crossing rail lines.

## Nature notes

TAME town pigeons are mainly descended from the rock doves of the wilder Scottish coasts. The two populations rarely meet, but most of the town birds still have the distinctive double bar on the wing and the silvery underwing of the rock dove, although they have interbred with other domestic pigeons. They also retain the rapid flight that led to their first being selected as racing pigeons. Whether on a rocky as it circles round high in the ledge or a neglected window sill they defend their small

skylark climbs from a field of seen.



The association says it will

□ loss of public access to

opers and some planners want

10 public rights of way cross-

that if British Rail is success-

controls:

**TOWN PIGEON** young winter wheat and sines

Most dead leaves are crumterritories with a deep, vibrat- bling on the ground; but the ing moan repeated again and leaves of the London plane again, like some inefficient tree resist the wind and rain, and green leaves are still Great tits are singing on landing on top of the deep. mild mornings: they too have brown drifts. Beech twigs are a very mechanical double speckled against the sky with note. Nuthatches make long-folded, clinging leaves and drawn out whistles in the empty nutshells. By some treetops, the nearest note they garden walls, the daisy-like have to a song. Occasionally a flowers of feverfew can still be Contrasted with this was the

### **OBITUARIES**

## DR JOHN DAWSON

Dr John Dawson, under-sec retary at the British Medical Association and head of its professional, scientific and international affairs division, died of cancer on December 20 aged 44. He was born on August 18, 1946.

IN A career tragically cut short by illness John Dawson did much to transform the British sor Thea King, clarinettist, 65; Miss Jane Lapotsire, actress, 46; Mr Denis Quilley, actor, 63. Medical Association from a cosy club, dedicated to safeguarding the status quo and protecting the medical ion, to an organisation which took a vigorous interest in public health. He was head. of the BMA's foundation for Aids and was at the heart of all the discussions of social, political and ethical matters as actor and dramatist, Dublin, 1822; Henry Miller, novelist, they affected the medical profession, which have taken DEATHS: John Wilkes, pol-itical reformer, London, 1797; Heinrich Schliemann, archaeoplace in recent years. As a result the BMA found itself more closely involved in pubphens, novelist and poet, London, 1950; Harry S. Tru-man, 33rd president of the USA 1945-53, Kansas City, 1972; Sir Lennox Berkeley, composer, lic health issues than it had been at any time in its 150year history.

John Duncan Dawson was

> Medical School where he qualified in 1971. After a couple of years of house jobs in the Isle of Wight, Sussex and at the Middlesex Hospital, he joined the British Antarctic Survey in November 1972 and spent the winter of 1973-4 at the geophysical observatory at Halley Bay. During that period he was responsible for the health of the 20 members of the survey stationed there and had a shared responsibility for the members of other British Antarctic Survey bases where no doctor was stationed. He had also gone to Halley Bay to make a documentary film about the social relationships in a remote observatory where staff have to cope with prob-lems associated with polar climate and prolonged isolation over long periods. Entitled The Ice and the Sky the

Lady Wheeler, archaeologist and widow of Sir Mortimer Wheeler, died in Cambridge on December 14 aged 74. She

was born in Australia on September 23, 1916.

IF ONE trait above all others

were to be chosen to

characterise Lady Wheeler, it

would surely be her immense

which somehow always finally

prevailed, despite the many

sorrows by which her life was

beset. This was partly owing to

her ardent Roman Catholi-

cism and partly to a natural

resilience, since, as she always

used to say, "What fun it all

events in the history of the

Christian church took place

one thousand, six hundred

On Christmas Day in the

year 390 the Roman emperor

Theodosius received commu-

nion in the cathedral of Milan,

at that time the capital of the

western empire, from the

hands of the great St Ambrose,

the bishop of the city. That in

itself may not seem particu-

larly striking - Theodosius, one of the few Roman em-

perors to receive the title of

"the Great", was a strong

However, that Christmas

marked the end of a period of several weeks during which

the emperor had been de-

barred by St Ambrose from

receiving the sacrament. What

could have occasioned such a

prohibition imposed upon the

Christian emperor and why

had the emperor submitted to

this instead of, as might have

happened, sending the auda-

cious bishop into exile, or

The setting was the Roman

empire of the late fourth

century, a few years before the

Sack of Rome in 410 by the

Goths. At the start of that

century the Emperor Con-

stantine had been converted

to Christianity and the Chris-

tian church, from being a

persecuted minority, became a

favoured religion. In 380

Theodosius declared Chris-

tianity to be the official re-

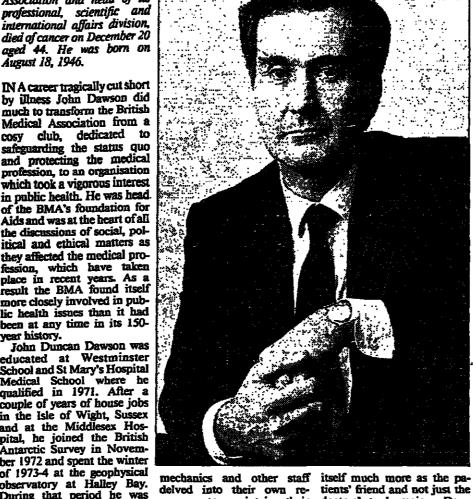
The empire was in decline.

ligion of the empire.

worse?

Catholic Christian

years ago.



On his return home Dawgeneral practitioner but his Aids, teenage contraception, fascination with medical ethics led him towards the BMA cohol abuse, cervical cancer where he saw a chance to put screening, smoking and altersome of his convictions into native therapies. He was also practice, Promoted under-secretary, at 35 the BMA's youngest ever, he was fortunate in the appointment of Dr John Havard as the association's film explored the ways in secretary, a man determined cal profession. which Halley Bay's scientists, that the BMA should promote

sources to maintain their doctors' trade union. Dawenthusiasm for their task, in son's main contribution was sometimes bleak weather con- to help produce a series of reports which covered most of the burning medical-ethical son had intended to train as a issues of the past few years:

in vitro fertilisation, diet, algood at getting publicity for these reports which stirred general as well as professional debate and began to change public perception of the medi-

Dawson's role was

universally popular within the profession itself. As a frequently summoned "talking head" on medical ethics on television programmes he sometimes seemed to be inpreferred to make up their celebrations of Christmas." minds at leisure. His views on smoking, drinking and diet, too, made him few friends in the tobacco and food and drink industries. He was unrepentant over his criticism of what he regarded as cynical merchandising of unhealthy

Sometimes he did put his

his Aids campaign he was

products

sexual encounter within the blood. Catastrophic shortages for the transfission service loomed and after a stormy meeting between Sir Donald Acheson the DHSS's chief medical officer and Dawson and his colleagues, the BMA was forced to climb down in a statement issued jointly with the DHSS, to the effect that his life. the risk of a blood transfusion containing the Aids virus was "infinitesmal". This was a bruising defeat for Dawson who felt that an honest attempt to make a valid point had been misrepresented. Nevertheless be realised that a crusader must accept mistakes of this sort, though he was careful thereafter to rely much more on the BMA's sophisticated public relations department in the issuing of

When cancer was diagnosed some months ago he accepted the discovery with good grace, remarking that the task of implementing change now acquired an even greater ur-

His marriage to Caroline Perry, by whom he had two daughters, was dissolved in 1987.

## JOHN HARRIOTT

Catholic and ecumenical affairs, died on December 23 aged 57. He had been suffering from emphysema and related problems. He was born on January 2, 1933.

JOHN Harriott confessed in his final column in The Tablet clined to steamroller the that he was "someone who got BMA's rank and file on issues | an almighty kick out of both on which they would have the sacred and the secular That he went heaven-homewards in time to join better celebrations elsewhere is the divine irony he would have appreciated Graham Greene said that Harriott's "Periscope" column was almost always the first thing he turned to in the Catholic weekly. That could have been foot in it as when in pursuit of | said for most readers. Harriott was a born columnist, yet it widely quoted as saying that took him a long time to any one who had had a casual discover his true vocation. discover his true vocation.

He entered the Jesuit no-

previous four years should "think twice" before giving at an unusually young 16%, vitiate at Rochampton in 1949 naive and devoted to critics and to G. K. Chesterton. His father was bandmaster for the East Surrey Regiment. The war brought the family to Kingston and Harriott was sent to school with the Jesuits at Wimbledon College. That experience shaped the rest of But he always claimed to be

a northerner with roots in Darlington. It provided an impeccably orthodox Catholic background about which he seemed to have total recall. One uncle, a priest in Newcastle, figured in many of his columns. His first posting after ordination in 1965 was to the Jesuit retreat house of Rainhill in Lancashire. He had a degree in English from Oxford but did not aspire to theological learning and had no use for the scholastic philosophy still officially in vogue. That type of spirituality always looked to him like a safe option. His vocation was to help ordinary people pas-torally, to "find god in all things" according to the Igna-

He was about to be made superior of the house when in papal encyclical banning artificial birth control, exploded. Harriott was caught in the fallout because he signed a letter to The Times on October 2, being widely read and ac-1968, in which 55 Roman Catholic priests declared that "they could not in conscience and entertaining rather than give loyal internal and exerudite, a method to which her ternal obedience to the view. gift as a vivid raconteur gave that all such means of contraan added sparkle. She contrib- ception are in all circumuted several books on stances wrong."

tian formula.

archaeology, all in a lighter This was a sincere but fatal vein, but towards these, as to move. Overnight Harriott beher attitude was invariably the church. But he was not one of commendable drummed out. He left Rainhill to serve his sentence in a rustic limbo where he was forbidden twice. Her first marriage to by preach or get in touch with Bob Norfolk, commanding anyone. Within a year the absurdity of the situation was realised and he joined the staff of the Jesuit magazine The Emnire of The Heart. He Month, on condition that he did not write on the taboo

topic. He made his first forays into reporting the Vatican, but only warmed to the theme during the 1971 synod on justice which became his however, was the loss of her dominant concern. This radical romantic who helped brought him into touch with many people find themselves. folk who died of leukaemia at an international group of Jesuits who travelled the world him. There were no children.

John Harriott, former Jesuit stimulating local clergy and priest and writer on Roman bishops to work for justice. The same concern also led him to live at the Catholic Institute of International Relations (CIIR), then in handsome delapidation in a mansion overlooking Regent's

MERNETHER

· He was now in a rather paradoxical situation, under a cloud with his English superiors yet so well regarded in Rome that in 1975 he was invited to write an introduction to the speeches of the General of the Jesuits, Father Pedro Arrupe. In it he defined the Jesuit as someone who explores "every human activity to discern their traces of God, to sharpen and extend human vision, to encourage the sense of wonder in face of the mystery of man and the world about him." Even in his estrangement from the Jesuits he continued to do this until the end. But he was drifting irrevocably apart from his superiors in London. There was no one moment when this happened, and certainly no spectacular row. True, an article on church investment in South Africa proved embarrassing because Jesuit funds were lodged there. But Harriott was proved right and the investments were later removed.

Harriott now began to argue

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NEW TOWN

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that by behaving unjustly the church was sawing off the branch on which it tried to sit. In an article called "The Suicide of Authority" he wrote that "any kind of window dressing, humbug, hollow rhetoric, lack of candour, false dealing or petty harrassment damages authority from within far more seriously than assaults from without." But when he left the Jesuits in 1978 he did not pose as a victim of authority. He soon found a post at the Independent Broadcasting Authority as contracts renewal officer, a iob which involved travelling the country exorting the troops to ever higher professional standards and checking on the applications for franchise renewal. The move to television administration was a perfectly logical pro-July 1968 Humanae Vitae, the gression. He had served on a commission on the future of broadcasting and his wife, Shirley du Boulaye, was a BBC television producer. But his health, never good, made commuting from the Old School House in Great Haseley, Oxfordshire, an increasing strain, so he took early retirement and moved to

north Oxford. Then began the most creative period of his life. He engaged in numerous literary projects, drafted speeches with Archbishop of Canterbury and wrote the script for a television film on Saint Ignatius. But he will be remembered chiefly as a columnist. A selection of his pieces in The Tablet has just appeared in book form under the title could be perhaps unreasoningly savage about Mrs Thatcher or the Roman Curia, blimpish about the decline of the English village, sentimental about critics, and profound about how God worked in ordinary people. He was a

His wife, Shirley, survives

### sor John Ward Perkins and

**Andrew Lenox-Conyngham** 

Christianity gains power as

emperor suffers humiliation

ONE of the most momentous confident and emergent Later centuries saw this

church-state relations for

firmness and diplomatic tack

that the emperor was to

sacrament again Such a thing

was a genuinely religious man

of the wondering congrega-

tion, who made intercession

for him in their prayers. At

Christmas he was readmitted

to communion again.

public penitent before the eyes ing it.

The bishop made it clear

centuries.

church, conscious of its spir- incident as a "triumph of the

itual power and of having church over the state" but it

Survived so many centuries of was not so regarded at the persecution. Nobody contrib-

uted more to the strengthening it in that light. It certainly

of the church's power than marked a turning-point in the

Bishop Ambrose and the year relations between the church

390 saw an event which was to and the state but that was influence the course of almost incidental.

In the summer of that year a of the church but to dem-

riot had occurred in Thessa- onstrate that the moral law of

lonica in which the com- God was binding on all Chris-

mandant of the city, a friend tians, irrespective of their

of the emperor, had been rank. Theodosius had the

killed. In a fit of rage Theodosius ordered a terrible revenge; this and, by his acceptance of

seven thousand of the popula-tion of the city were to be establish a new standard to

slaughtered. When he heard of which Christian rulers were

the massacre, Bishop Am- expected to adhere. However

brose, who knew the emperor often princes in the following

personally, wrote him a letter centuries were to fall short of

that is a model of pastoral this standard, it was never

undergo nothing less than the commonplace assumptions of

humiliation of public penance our society, acknowledged by

before he could receive the Christian and non-Christian

was unheard of - bishops had lonica and its aftermath

been used to taking their contributed to this change of

orders from the emperors, not atmosphere probably more

emperors from bishops. De-than any other single incident

spite his faults, Theodosius in the history of the Church.

and to his credit he submitted. vindication of the emperor's

For several weeks he laid action in undergoing public aside the imperial insignia and penance no less than of

sat during the services as a Ambrose's courage in impos-

foreotten.

the late Dr Molly Cotton at Margaret - Meg, Brownie the British School, and or Kim - as she was variously throughout her extensive travand more intimately known to els, notably in Australia, the her many friends in all parts of near East, Afghanistan, India the world, was born in Sydney,

and Nepal. of the distinguished Collingridge family. But she was educated in England, Her life-long interest in archaeology began in 1935 when she joined Mortimer which remained her perma-Wheeler's dig at Maiden Casnent home, even during her sojourn in Rome when she tle, and continued until worked under the late Profes-

for the last time she was nently suited in that, while responsible for classifying and cataloguing the pottery finds curately informed, her apat the Australian University proach was essentially lively dig at Pella in Jordan. She only directed one dig on her own account, when she

LADY WHEELER

excavated the tomb of Santa Ruffina at a site near Rome. but being, as she was, a firstrate "trouper" and colleague, she played a leading part in a number of important digs. These included those conducted by Mortimer Wheeler, when, as director general of archaeology in India, he established training schools at Harappa, Taxila, and Mohenjodaro, and she went with him on his exploratory tours of Iran and Afghanistan.

She subsequently worked with Dame Kathleen Kenyon at Jericho and was closely concerned with editing the definitive publications on both Jericho and Jerusalem.

In later life Margaret Wheeler established a wellmerited reputation as an exponent of her chosen subject, a shortly before her death, when role to which she was emi-

Ambrose was concerned not

to increase the political power

Christian standards and

principles have now become

alike The incident of Thessa-

Christmas 390 was a

The author is fellow and

chaplain of St Catharine's

College, Cambridge.

### the early age of 21. Appointments in

Margaret Wheeler married

officer of HMS Thorn came to

an abrupt end when the

submarine was lost at sea with

all hands during the second

world war, while her second,

to Sir Mortimer Wheeler (who

was much her senior), was

terminated informally by mu-

tual agreement in 1956. The

great tragedy of her life,

only daughter, Elizabeth Nor-

modesty.

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Air Vice-Marshal P Dodworth OBE AFC to be Head of British Definion Staff and Detento Attache in Wash-ington in April 1991 in microelion to Major Grineral E H A Beckett MBE. Royal AF Pense WING COMMANDER: P Calbins — To MD Losdon: D B Connon — To 11 MU Chillmark: M G L Wooldridge ~ To be MOSTC: J E Moulton — To 16 MU Stafford.

**Psychological** Society The following members of the British Psychological Society have been elected fellows and

tion FBPsS:
Dr P.J. Barnard, Cambridge: Dr J.R. Beech, Lericester: Dr S.E. Califfs. Northern Freiand: Dr R.J. Cameron. Southeampion. Dr D. Carrott, Glassgow; Mr C.W. Clegg, Bheffield: Dr M.J. Drivisson. Maschester; Mr E.M. Emeron, Manchester; Dr H.L. Hawle, Bellt: Dr L.T. Hoolins. Crester: Dr M.J.A. Howe, Calver: Dr C. Hutme, York: Professor G. W. Hutme, York: Professor G. W. Raubelder, Becker J. Commissioner, Dr. L. G. McPherson, Nutreaton: Dr S.H. Ns. New Zealand; Professor K. Cadley, Glasspow: Dr J. Patrick, Cardiff, Professor J.T. Resson, Marchester, Dr T.W. Robbins, Cambridge; Dr S.H. Soence, Australia: Professor K.T. Michaelman, New Zealand; Dr A.J. William, Cambridge, Dr J. Starmperfald. London: Dr A.J. William, Cambridge.

## **Cranwell graduations**

trant Course from the Royal Air Officer J E Laws Force College Cranwell on Supply Branch December 20.

Flying Officer R B H Hodson; Flying Officer S Rawnishey.
Pilot Officer M Allinson MEng: Pilot Officer A D Bason BSC: Pilot Officer A D Bason BSC: Pilot Officer A N Blythe BENF: Pilot Officer R J Claryham BSC: Pilot Officer B D M D McSatinsming BSC: Pilot Officer D S M Satins Pilot Officer D M Wester BSC: Pilot Officer T R Weller BSC: Pilot Officer S R World Officer O R Forbes: Acting Pilot Officer S R Jones: Acting Pilot Officer M R Moran.

Flying Officer D P Brown BEng: Flying Officer J P Broomes; Flying

General Sir Richard Vincent GBE KCB DSO, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, was the Reviewing Officer at the graduation of 104 officers of No 129 Initial Officer Training Course and 14 officers of No 239

Specialist Entrant and Re-en-Piet Officer JE (Johnson Epwing Fiving Officer R P Dainy BSc: Flying Officer B G Lynch. Administrative Branch - Calering Fixing Officer R Punshen BA WRAF. Plot Officer J C Barrett BSc WRAF: Pilot Officer A C E Mann. Administrative Branch - Phy Education Flying Officer J A W Truscott. Security Branch - RAF Regiment
Pilot Officer R A Davies.
Acting Pilot Officer G Caivert: Acting
Pilot Officer J M Cavars: Acting Pilot
Officer M S Powell.

Flying Officer A M Quinn. Royal Air Force of Oman Graduating Officers of the special entrant and re-entrant course.

The British Aircraft Corporation Tro-phy: Flying Officer D L Lewis.

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British

the Forces - HORNIN 29.5.91; D. J. Russell - Nepture 4.5.91; R.C. Sesward - MOD London 17.5.91; SURGEON COMMANDER: P.F.R. Tolley - Wartior 17.5.91; CIADLAIN, D. W. W. Thomas - Bruzen 15.12.90.

are permitted to use the designation FBPsS:

General Outles (Ground) Branch - Air Trassic Control

PBol Officer F J Robertson Acting Pilot Officer J Wintrip Acting Pilot Officer A L Wyld

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the year. The finges

Britain and the Common-

My family, for instance, has

take time to count our blessings.

For it seems to me that there is one deep and overriding

anxiety for us all on which we

should reflect today. That is the

threat of war in the Middle East.

The servicemen in the Gulf who are spending Christmas at their

posts under this threat are much

in our thoughts. And there are

many others, at home and

abroad, servicemen and civil-

ians, who are away from their own firesides. Wherever they are, may they all, when their

duty is done, soon be reunited

with their families safe and

At the same time we must remember those still held hos-

tage. Some of them have spent

years in captivity and Christ-

mas must for them be especially

hard to bear. My heart goes out

to them and to their families.

We can, at least, rejoice at the

safe return of many of their compatriots over the last weeks,

and salute the courage which

civil disturbance inevitably

cause thousands of innocent

people to become refugees and

to have their lives ruined or

disrupted. It is difficult for us,

safe at home, to contemplate

the scale of the suffering for

homeless and hungry people caused by the ever-widening

consequences of the crisis in the

an example on an international

scale of an evil which has beset

us at different levels in recent

years - attempts by ruthless

people to impose their will on

the peaceable majority. In ex-

treme form, as we know only

The invasion of Kuwait was

Wars, threats of wars and

they have shown.

cheer for most of us.

# Taiwan to end state of war

ECEMBER 26 1990

i — Taiwan will formally state of war with China May removing an tant obstacle to closer cratte reform on the President Lee Teng-hui in a sign of continuing

are on the Nationalist Supporters ned here to demand even r change. sident Lee said the maissis would before rescand a 42 car-old series declaration issued.

state a process of consu-We hope in the shemest period of that is to say, before May car, we will declare an to the Panes of comst return he told the mai Assembly. e reforms would help to or stage for the eventual fication Talkan with land China and meet ing demands for democovisions under the decla-

0. Issued (2:1 Delore the malist go imment lost or and her in Taiwan in . grive sweetping powers to residency and freeze in hundreds of secing legm elected in China. we do nut return to a al constitutional system, strengthen the operation c constitution is will be to establish a foundation and dev. ment " or said yesterday.

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The Queen: reflecting on the Middle East

too well, these attempts lead to disaster and death, and their tragic aftermath for families and international community to the communities. In the United Kingdom, we have suffered once again during the past year from the scourge of terrorism, its disregard for human life and its efforts to dress its crimes in political clothes.

But all this is nothing new. The tributes we paid last summer to the heroes of Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain were tributes to their achievement in repelling a determined invader. That was 50 years ago.

Nowadays there are all too many causes that press their claims with a loud voice and a strong arm rather than with the language of reason. We must not allow ourselves to be too discouraged as we confront them. Let us remember that Christ did not promise the earth to the powerful. The resolve of those who endure and resist these activities should not be business in defiance of the violent hands is often an in- closer. spiration to the rest of us. Then again, I, like many others, was

unprovoked invasion of Ku-wait, and by the speed with which moves were made to try to relieve the plight of the innocent victims. I want, therefore, to say thank

you today to the men and women who, day in and day out, carry on their daily life in difficult and dangerous circumstances. By just getting on with the job, they are getting the better of those who want to harm our way of life. Let us think of them this Christmas, wherever they are in the world, and pray that their resolution remains undiminished. It is they and their kind who, by resisting the bully and the tyrant, ensure that we live in the sort of world in which we can celebrate this season safely with

our families. I pray also that we may all be blessed with something of their underestimated. I never cease to spirit. Then we would find it admire the stoical courage of easier to solve our disputes in those in Northern Ireland, for example, who go about their occur, and that inheritance of the earth which Christ promterrorist. The reaction of those iscd, not to the strong, but to the who have lost loved ones at meek, would be that much

A happy Christmas and God

## Roman way to urban planning

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ROMAN towns and fortresses in Britain were laid out using a common modular grid, according to a new theory. Multiples of tens or hundreds of Roman feet can be detected in the plans of cities such as Silchester and Colchester, or legionary fortresses such as that at Inchtuthil

on Tayside.
The idea has been widely discussed over the past decade and the latest model has been developed by Philip Crummy, director of the Colchester Archaeological Trust. In what he calls "a more, visual approach" to the problem, a theoretical layout is super-imposed on a plan of the actual

so it continues to make sense despite any localised discrepancies".

The method uses that staninches, and looks for dimensions which are simple mul-tiples of 5, 10 and 100 feet. "The street plan of the fortress at Colchester can be rationalised in terms of strips 200 and 300 Roman feet wide," Mr Crummy says, while the later Inchtuthil fortress uses mainly 300ft modules, although there are also some strips of only 60ft wide.

"The 300ft dimension appears to be almost universal. site. pears to be almost universal,
Mr Crummy says that the test
is demanding "since it preis demanding bar-

nounced favourably in the

second inquiry; and on January 6, 1904, the following year, Pius X was presented for the first time at a meeting

of that Congregation in the Vatican, when the solemn

decree, declaring Joan of Arc

to have practised heroic vir-

Finally, on November 24

of this year, in the presence of

the Pope, was read the decree

which closed the third in-

tues, was read.

supposes a high degree of racks," he says. At Inchtuthil accuracy across the entire plan, the 300ft square blocks were probably only a product of the fact that each block of six barracks occupied a space which was close to a square.

> Similar use of the 25ft mo ule can be seen in the plan of Silchester, near Reading, Mr Crummy believes that the city blocks running north-south used a 300ft module, with one of 450ft for the central strip that included the forum, and the east-west strips of the same blocks were 275ft or 425ft.

> "The metrological analysis of the plans of towns and fortresses in this way may help to locate any fortresses which await discovery under out Roman towns," Mr Crummy says.

### DECEMBER 26 ON THIS DAY 1908

## **HEREN**

Joan of Arc was burned at the stake as a witch and heretic on May 30 1431 in Rouen. In 1456 the proceedings of her trial were annulled and in 1876 the "cause" of her beatification was introduced; the final recognition of her martyrdom was her canonisation in 1920.

### BEATIFICATION OF JOAN OF ARC ROME, DEC. 22.

The first name on the list of beatifications for next year is that of Joan of Arc; and on April 18 the solemn ceremony will take place in St Peter's declaring the admit-tance of the Maid of Orleans to the ranks of those who await the final canonisation

by the Church ...
It was not until January 27, 1894, that the cause received the sanction of Leo XIII, and the three separate inquiries were commenced which are necessary, according to the prescriptions of Benedict XIV, to establish a right to beatification. These inquiries were to prove, first, that Joan of Arc had never been the object of public worship; secondly, that she had prac-tised the cardinal and divine virtues on a heroic scale; thirdly, that after her death

miracles had been wrought by her intercession.
On June 23, 1898; the Tribunal of the Rota gave judgment in favour of the cause in the first inquiry, that of non cultu. Shortly before the death of Leo XIII the

quiry and declared miracles to have been performed through the intercession of Joan of Arc. The miracles, New grants and contracts: three in number, and of comparatively recent date, consisted in the healing of incurable diseases in the cases of three nuns who had sought Joan of Arc's intercession.

On December 13, in the hall of the Consistory in the Vatican took place the publication of the decrees of beatification, and among them that of Joan of Arc. In his answer to the thanks tendered him by Mgr.
Touchet, on behalf of the
French Catholics, the Pope declared that he regarded the Maid of Orleans as the personification of chivalrous France, ever generous, and ever ready to sacrifice herself

for a noble aim. The Osservatore Romano, in explanation, enters upon an historical disquisition in which the English nation and Pierre Chauchon, the un-worthy Bishop of Beauvais, play very sorry parts. With-out disputing as to who was most responsible for the burning of Joan one may at least remark that her memory was cleared and venerated in England long before it became a matter of any concern

### University news

Professor R.S. Swift (Soil Science), £110,219 from the AFRC—influence of soil organic constituents on the retention and trans-

Conferment of titles The title of professor emeritus has been conferred on the following:
Dr John Banfield, professor of continuing education from 1987 to 1990. Mr David (Peter) Devlin,

Dr A.J. Lax (Institute of Animal Health, Compton), £146,466 from the AFRC — role of macrophages in the pathogenesis of salmonellosis. Professor J.W. Almond (Microbiology), £252,300 from the AFRC — prion protein variation in the spongiform encephalopathies. Professor J.W. Almond (Microbiology) and Dr P.D. Minor (National Institute for Biological Standards and Control), £800,607 from the Medical Research Council — molecular biology of polio

manufacturing system.
Professor K. Warwick and Dr R.J.
Mitchell (Cybernetics), £177,057
from the SERC — operator inter-

port of synthetic organic Dr R Barclay (Microbiology) and Dr A.J. Lax (Institute of Animal

from the Medical Research Coun-cil — molecular biology of polio and related viruses: neurovirulence, antigenicity and vaccine development. Professor T.R. Addis (Computer Science), £122,988 from the SERC — the practical integration of knowledge-based scheduling system with a semiconductor manufacturing system.

face for advanced security

printing.
Professor K. Codling and Dr L.J.
Fransinski (Physics), £155,416
from the SERC — the coulomb
explosion of molecules in intense

to 1990. Mr David (Peter) Devlin, professor of English literature from 1986 to 1990. Dr John Holding, professor of agricultural and food bacteriology from 1979 to 1987 and professor of food and agricultural microbiology from 1987 to 1990. Mr Geoffiey Hornsey, professor of public law from 1978 to 1990. Dr George Irwin, professor of general practice from 1971 to 1990. Dr Anthony Valentine, professor of paediatric and preventive dentistry from 1982 to 1990.

Queen's University of Belfast

flowers only.

HATT - On December 20th
1990, Eñcem Mary Louise,
peacefully at home, much
loved Aumt of Ethabeth,
John, Anthony, and Susan.
Funeral Service takes piace
at St Edmundshury
Cathedrel, Bury St
Edmunds, on Wedneeday
January 2nd at 2.30 pm.
followed by private
cremation. Flowers may be
sent c/o L. Fulcher, 80
Whitting Street, Bury St
Edmunds.

METHERMOTON On
December 14th, trapically, as

METHERINGTON

December 14th, trapically, as
the result of an accident, Dr.
Mark Gillon Hetherington,
Fellow of St. Cruss College,
Cudord, Old Boy of Hereford
Cathedral School, and
Brassnose College, Cufford,
Beloved son of Stan and Key,
dear bruther of Zoe and
Louise, Laid to rest on
December 21st, 1990.

BLARDS On December 21st.

Louise. Lang to rest on December 21st. 1990.

BELLARD - On December 21st. 1990.

BELLARD - On December 21st. 1990.

BELLARD - On December 21st. 1990.

Mary, dearly beloved wife of Charles Hilbard and the late George Paten of Southport. Much loved mother of Georgina and Caroline and Great Grandmother. Funeral Great Grandmother. Funeral Service at St. Andrews Church. Ashburton. on Priday December 28th at 12 noon. Cot. Rowers only please or donations if withed to the Royal British Legion. C/O Funeral Directors. Webber and Christophers. Chuley road. Ashburton. TeloSo4-52441.

BUDDY - pencerally on 19th. Tel:0364-52441.

NUDDY - pencefully on 19th
December at home at Letton
Close. Blandford. Dosset.
Many Adelaide, wife of Dr
Ernest CH Huddy and mother of John. Richard and
Edward. Burist at Pimperne
Parish Church at 11.30sm
on 3rd January. Family
flowers only.

EMMURSON - On December

on Srd January. Family flowers only.

BINGRESON - On December 19th. Sedemly. Denis Welliam Jenkthson, husband of Felicity and father of Sonia. Deborah. Simony.

Amanda, Sally and Tamury.

ORNESSY-TAYLOR - On December 20th 1990 at Colindale Hospital, Edyth. A family funeral was held on Christmas Eve.

REED - On December 18th in Bristol. Jean. aged 69, widow of Dick and beloved mother of Elizabeth (Ebba) and Anne, and grandmother of Caroline and Robert. Cremation private.

Thankoglving service at Holy Trinky Church. Henley-on-Thames, 12 o'clack Saturday 29th December. Donalices, if withed to St. Peters Hospice.

Bristol.

**DENNIAM - On 24th December** 1990 neacefully at home.

later.

HAMER - On December 21st.
1990, at home after a short
Illness. Colone! PeterMerredith Hemer OBE. 11th
Hassars (P.A.O.). Private
family fumeral. By request.
no flowers or letters please.
Donations, in his memory, to
St John Ambutance, may be
sent to Camp Hopeun, 6-12
Northbrook Street,
Newbury, Berks. A service of
thanksgiving will be held at
St. Mary the Virgin.
Chieveley, at 2.30pm on
january 22nd, 1991. HARRIS - On December 21st at Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydril, Tegwyn Bowen, former headmaster of Vaynor Penderyn School. Funeral service at Llwydcoed crematorium, Aberdare, 230pm Friday December 28th. Family flowers only. HART - On December 20th

WANTED

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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wide Jupiler 071-436 2711 Visk/Access/Ames/Dinors

N.S.P.C.C.
STEPHEN - On Saturday
Decaraber 22nd., quisity,
aged 87 in Jersey. C.L. Joyce
Alice Stephen (formerly
Bissell Thomes, side Steuart)
beloved mother of JEI,
Jeffray, and Camilla.
Funeral private. No flowers,
Donstions to MacMillan
Nurses, Anchor House, 15
British St. London SW3. Sritten St. Lendon SW3.

WRSHT - On December 20th
1990, peacehalty, William
aged 84 years of Port Erin,
leic of Man. Loved husband
of Jessie, tate of Tocidal
Experimental station, Johan,
Amann. Donaldons if so
desired to Rushen
Emergency Ambulance. C/O
Ken Quine, Station Road,
Port Erin, Isle of Man.

TELIMBULE - On Tenember

RES - On December 19th 1990. Dr Nor Bris of the London Houstial and Moorfields, searcefully in his steep at Hobbourse Nursing Home. Deloved husband of Banny and father of Robert, and respected by all who know him. Funeral private.

ROSS - On December 23rd, 1990. psacrhity. Kathleen (1990. psacrhity. Kathleen (1970. belowed wife of the last William Mackenzie Robb. dearly leved mother of Allson and Andrew, and a loving grandmother. Fruerral Louisien at the Mid

soving grandmother, Funeral Service at the Mid Warwickshire Crematorium, Onktor Wood, on Monday, December 31st, at 3,30 pm. Fatally flowers only.

Jerusalem, Jerusalemi You kill the prophets and stone the messengers God has sent yout ... and so your Tample will be abandoned and

empty. St. Masthew 23 : 37,39 GNB

BIRTHS

IGOTH - On December 22nd to John and Christing (of

Todorovich) a son, Nicholes John.
Sons.

COOKSOM - On December 18th to Cherry Cookson, a son, Giver Liste, a brother for William.

COOPER - On December 20th to Beltoda (see Firth) and Patrick, a son Christopher.

CORY - On December 14th 1990 to Shirisy-Anne (see Friser) and Hugh, a son, Oliver Occur David, a brother for Max.

PELIZ - On December 4th to Katheyn and Suphen, a daughter, Sasha Louise, GMCSUE - On December 20th the Hong Kong to Jane and Martin, a son, Samuel, Samsouls - On December 21st (1990 at The Mailide Houghts), Hong Kong to Liz (sée Writhfield) and Colin, a daughter, Rebecta Clare, a nister for Katis.

WALLER - On December 23rd at Wycombe Hospital to Julie and Inn, a son, Jack, a brother 50r Almee and March, a son, Jack, a brother 50r Almee and Max.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

KKLLETT/SHIEVLIN - On December 26th 1940, at St. Patricks Church, Fort Wil-lism, Calcutte, Dick to Kathleen,

DEATHS

Kathleen, POCKSONSTONELLY Frank and Freds, December 26th 1940 at St Michael's, Brindagton, Derbys, Congratulations. Port Erm, isse of Man.
TREMBLE - On December
20th, peacefully at home at
Harriery Winney, Manguerite
Adeln, widow of the late
Adeln, widow of the late
Adeln, widow of the late
Adeln, widow for the late
Adeln, widow of the late
Adeln, widow
for the late
Adeln, widow
for Adeln

BAMER - On December 21st
Herbert Allaire Edmeades
after a short illness in
hospital. Cremation at
Chichester, January 3rd
2,30pon Family flowers only
or docations to Friends of St.
Richards Hospital.
BLACKSHAW - On December
20th 1990, peacufully, at
East Cheshire Hospice.
Nicola Diama Blackshaw (née
Gebobya) beloved wife of
Christian and mother of
Krystoff, Juliette, Lariana
and Elema Fameral service at
St Philips, Alderiey Edge et
11,30 a.m. December 28th,
no flowers plesse, docations

Minibank Drive, Macciesfield, BOULDBIG - On December 23rd, 1990, Descentily, Michael Khilicoff-Bonsding, beloved son of Rory and Marina, brother to Alexis. Loved and heised by many, Cremation Service on Thursday, January 3rd at 12 noon at the Tunbridge Wells Crematorium, 'And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone'.

CAPFYN - On Saturday, December 22rd, peacerbilly in bis 92rd year, at St. Luto's/Roosevelt Hooptal, New York, Rareld, beloved husband of the lale Kay. Birth and Death notices may be accepted over the

telephone. For publication the following day please 4pm Friday, 9.30am-1.00pm Saturday

071 481 4000 ANNOUNCEMENTS

the RNLI

It is your support through legacies and voluntary contributions that allows us to meet our daily running costs of £100,000 and John Bovill aged 66 years.
John Bovill aged 66 years.
Funeral service in 81 Mi-chaels Church, Gittisham.
Devon on Friday 28th
December 2.30ym. Memorial

The Director, Dept 1HZ, or phone (0202) 671133.

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Directur of Appendix, Arthritis Care, Dept 2.7, 5 Grossman for manual lands of the program Care, Beel S.T., 5 Grossener Crescent, Loudon SW1X 759. Yet: 071-235 8902. Fax: 071-259 5388

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RESERVES - On December 23rd 1990 penchisty. Caroline Rubers beloved wife of Charles, mother of James. Anne. and the late Calherine and grandmother of Mark. Jason. Thunn and Glead. Jason. Thunn and Glead. Funerat at Golders Green Crematorium. Hoop Lame. NW11. Thursday December 27th at 2.30pm. No Elowers. Douations if desired to N.S.P.C.C.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

SENKELEY - Lennox Rands SEMELEY - Lennox Randal Franch. composer and teacher. May 12th 1903 -Doember 25th 1999. R.P. WHITE-SHATTH - In sweetest memory of my dearest husband. Bir Henry White-Buith. C.B.E. December 25th 1943. Forever in my heart - Millicent.

telephone by 5.00pm Monday to Thursday. for Monday's paper.

husband of the late Kay.

CRANBERS - Poula Vern.,
wife of the late Commander
F.J. Chambers O.B.E. RN,
pacefully on December 21st
at her home in Durrington.
Wills. Lowed by all her
family. Funeral service
Friday January 4th 1991
11.15gm at Saltsbury
Crematorium. Funity
flowers only. Donations if Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for the R.N.L.I c/o Will Case & Partners, 20 Churchfields Rd, Salisbury SP2 7NH. FREED SELVENTATIONS LTD. Rec-commend that before veryinging to may advertisement in these col-umns, please take all normal processionsary measures, as Times Newspapers Ltd. cannot Times Newspapers Ltd. cannot contain the contained of the line or loss resulting from an advertisement carried in these columns. SP2 7NH.

GLAMK - On December 23rd, peacefully at home, withred Harry (BED, loved husband of Luciesme and father of John, The funeral will be held at the Church of St Laurence, Lurgeshall, hear Petworth, W. Sussex at 12 noon on Priday, December 28th, Family flowers only please, but doustions if desired will be welcomed by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset Bili5 1HZ.

BERWAM - On 24th December

Thank you from

For full details on legacies, constact; DT, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset BH15

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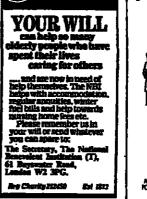
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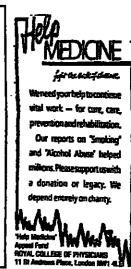
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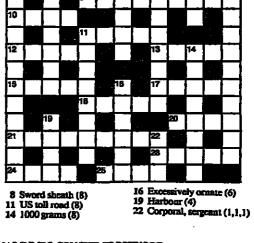
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SOLUTION TO CHRISTMAS JUMBO CONCISE CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1 Pm dreaming of a white Christmas 15 Distraint 16 Excerpt 17 Infielder 18 Soccomb 19 Colombo 20 Leader 21 Clot 23 Real 24 Mandrill 25 Poetry 26 Raging 29 Agriate 30 Register 31 Apologenic 33 Winter 34 Vocal 36 Mature 37 Forester 46 Relinquishment 42 Overemphasis 45 Effervescent 46 Incommensurate 48 Sardonic 50 Resume 51 Sissy 52 Fuchu 55 Fast asleep 57 Archives 59 Dragnet 61 Hard up 62 Empire 63 Landlady 65 Solo 68 With 69 Cancel 76 Signals 71 Coaltit 73 Rehearsel 74 Chapati 75 In the well 76 Dissolution of the monesteries

SOLUTION TO CHRISTMAS JUMBO CONCISE CROSSWORD

In the well 76 Dissolution of the monasteries

DOWN: 1 Industrial Workers of the World 2 Desecration 3 Earful 4

Mainbrace 5 Noticed 6 Overlying 7 Accomplishment 8 Horn of plenty 9

Totalled 10 Chinagraph 11 Reflex 12 Seed 13 Medallist 14 Stranggic arms
reduction talks 22 Bangle 27 Gardener 28 Blood money 30 Rucksack 32 Previous 34 Vandeville 35 Lamented 38 TESSA 39 Prunises 41 Liffer 43 Hausfran 44 Encephalograph 47 Quarterstaff 49 Opaque 53 Condottieri 54

Vermicelli 56 Scratches 58 Vandalism 59 Dedicates 60 Billy can 64 Lesbian 66 Nassau 67 Manage 72 Halo Total Winds of Manage 72 Halo Page 1 Dian 66 Nessau 67 Manage 72 M In a 90-year-old

of Anna Ducat

against them and hold the secret of a

tragedy which happened there 90

years ago.
On the largest rock a lighthouse

stands silent witness to the tragic

events which deprived Anna Ducat

years old. Today Miss Ducat, now 98 and living in Edinburgh, is believed to be the last direct link

with the mystery that has passed

into legend among the superstitious

folk of the Outer Hebrides, and

which has been immortalised in an epic poem by W.W. Gibson.

Miss Ducat's father, James Ducat, was one of the three keepers

of the Flannan Isles lighthouse who

vanished without trace on a dark

December Saturday in 1900. Their

disappearance has never been fully

explained. There have been fantas-

tic tales of madness and murder.

But in the end, it is most likely a

story of stoicism and duty, perhaps

of heroism, and almost certainly of

a merciless sea which played a final

The tragedy was discovered on Boxing Day, when the lighthouse

ship Hesperus called on a routine

visit. It was about noon and the

crew were surprised that the tiny

rock showed no sign of life. The

landing stage was not prepared for

the ship, the flagstaff was bare and

there was no response when they

fired a rocket, though it should have

Against the heavy swell of the sea

boat was lowered and Joseph

landed to scramble up the hundreds

of steps hewn out of the precipitous

boudin and lampreys.

the lowest common

denominatorists, who would

reduce any meal to the

blandest taste. Not content

ticated turkey (a meat so

vapid one only knows one has

eaten it by watching the space

too racy. So they dilute it with

swimming in insipid gravy

much better. Why bother to

teach them to make proper

gravy out of the meat juices

nated by dull sauces and

No, Christmas lunch is

ing about food. I, like many,

have been tempted to suggest

ways of improving Christmas

Day food. This is a waste of

effort. Let the LCDs keep the

25th as the lowest spot of their

miserable dictary year. But

while they are recovering from

an excess of the unexciting,

So seize it. And make it a

feast, the opposite of every-

thing from the day before.

That means, above all, food

contentious, the more so in a

country where so few know

much about it. There should

be at least one half-suppressed

"urgh" or look of panic as the

the 26th can be captured.

sprout water.

understrained sprouts.

brought the keepers running out.

cruel trick on the three men.

## Oh come now, Boxing day at Flannan rock

Why do so many perpetuate the myth of a very miserable Christmas?

all ye fanciful

YOU woke up this morning with an appalling hangover. You are carrying an extra inch on the waist and the turkey sandwich marathon has not even started. Your home is full of unwanted pairs of socks (men) and gift-wrapped toiletries (women). The atmosphere is a touch charged for a variety of reasons, delete where applicable: you never did get on with your mother/father-inlaw, why do they always have to stay at Christmas? You always knew that your spouse fancied that woman/man that he/she talked to for an hour at the party on Christmas Eve, but does it have to be quite so obvious? And, finally (for now), if you want to spend haif of Boxing Day at a football match that's your business, sniff, but if you want lunch early you can cook it yourself.

All of that describes a scenario that will be familiar to everyone reading this. Familiar from their own experience? Unlikely, Who still drinks excessively at Christmas? Who still eats too much? Who fights with the inlaws, the spouse, the children? Who still collapses on Christmas Day having spent "a month in the shops", as I overheard someone say re-cently? How many of our presents, even the socks, really bring cries of despair and mutterings about wasted money and crazy aunts?

A tremendous myth has been built around this time of year: the myth is that we hate it. To support this myth we have invented a tome of anecdotal evidence. We are said to rush around the shops at 5pm on Christmas Eve, by which time most of them are empty, or closed, or staffed by teenagers wearing streamers. We are, supposedly, up to here with opening the door to carol singers. Oh come now, all ye fanciful. We are still banging on about the fact that Christmas "starts too early". Just as well, if it is so frantic.

Are we all hung over this morning? Aside from some people who regard Christmas



may drink a bit more than usual, but then Christmas is a fairly static, and long, holiday for most people, so there are fewer driving considerations and fewer calls on the intellect. Are we really making fools of ourselves with the neigh-

bour's, or anyone else's, spouse? Even office parties, which used to be morally hazardous in a big way, now seem far less likely to be followed by divorce petitions and "look, about last night" evasions upon our return to work. Thousands of us go abroad for Christmas. Object: to get

away from it all. You hear people say: oh, we can't stand another Christmas here, we're going to . . . Austria. Austria? Well that's one way to get on the cover of a Christmas card. The people who have gone away will also have told us that of course you have to plan in advance because the presents have to be distributed to the poor devils who aren't getting away.

FUNN

10800

Jun 142 Julian Co-

MENTAL CORREST

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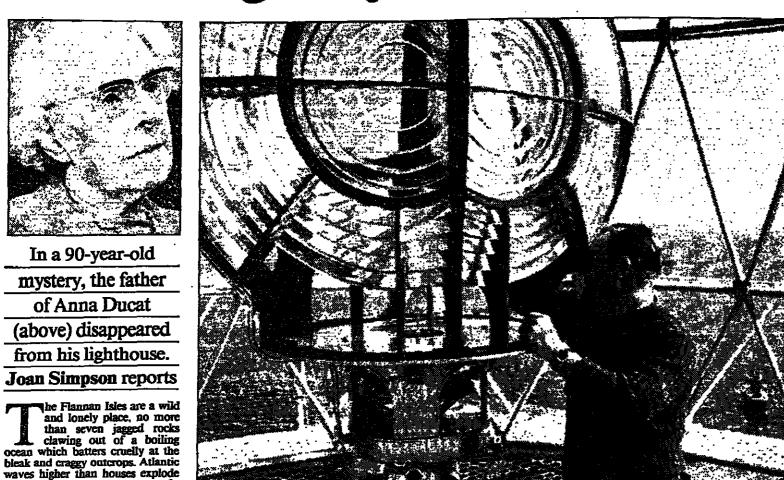
AND then there is the baggage allowance, which is a crucial factor because the people who are getting away from it all are taking most of it with them, to give to the people who are get-ting away from it all with them. Owning up about Christmas

is way overdue. We like it don't we? A few years ago I avoided spending Christman in Saudi Arabia by the skin of my teeth. All the people who did not come back to Britain said, "Oh dear, I wouldn't be you, that's one thing about England I don't miss"

When I returned to Saudi after Christmas, I was dining out for a week on tales of what it was like, what Regent Street looked like, who gave what to whom, and so forth. They didn't miss it? Not half.

Since then, whenever the clichéd attitude to Christmas threatens to overwhelm me, I think of Christmas in Sandi Arabia. This year, that is a comparison we could all bear in mind. Come on, pull your socks up.

PETER BARNARD



Dark secret: today the Flaman light is automated, so there is no longer a permanent crew at the station to ponder the fate of its predecessors

just as they had left them ..." Alarmed and distraught he "darted back" to the boat to fetch the others but "unfortunately the first impression was only too true". The clock had stopped, the lamp was trimmed and clean ready for lighting. Some accounts say a meal salted mutton and boiled potatoes lay on the table, half eaten, and a chair was toppled over on the floor. Official reports state that the kitchen had been tidied after the midday meal. But of the keepers

there was no sign.
Gibson describes the chill moment of discovery in his poem: Of the three men's fate we found

Of any kind in any place But a door ajar and an untouch'd

And an overtoppled chair. Sea boots and oilskins belonging to two of the men were missing from the hook in the cupboard, but the third man must have run out in his shirt sleeves, perhaps toppling the chair in his haste.

Moore, the relieving keeper, was The lighthouse station's routine carried on normally until cliffs above the landing stage. His own report of the time states: "On December 15. The official report from the investigating superintend-ent tells us: "The last entry on the entering the kitchen . . . I saw that the fire had not been lighted for slate had been made by Mr Ducat, some days, I then entered the rooms the Principal keeper on the morning in succession, found the beds empty of Saturday 15 December. The lamp

was trimmed, the oil fountains and canteens were filled up and the lens and machinery cleaned which proves that the work of the 15th had been completed.

This superintendent, Robert Muirhead, had persuaded Ducat to take on the job as principal when the Flannan Isles light had first been lit a year earlier, and had, with a heavy heart, recorded that he had visited the Flannans only a week before the disappearance, and that:
"I have the melancholy recollection that I was the last person to shake hands with them and bid them

Miss Ducat remembers her father's reluctance to go to the Flannans. "He said it was too dangerous, that he had a wife and four children depending on him, but Mr Muirhead persuaded him because he had such faith in him as a good and reliable keeper.'

The Ducat family lived at Breasclete, a shore station on the island of Lewis. About 15 miles to the west were the Flannan isles and the lighthouse, built on the largest of the seven rocks, only 800 yards long and 500 yards wide.

Miss Ducat clearly remembers the day her father left Breasclete for the last time. "It was a lovely sunny day and my brother Arthur and I were playing in the high walled gardens. My father came out of the house and picked each of us in his arms and gave us a hug and a kiss, then he walked very quickly away up the road. We ran after him shouting 'Daddy, Daddy' and he stopped at the road end and waited for us, picked each of us up again and gave us another kiss. I have always wondered if he had some kind of premonition that he would

never see us again." Oblivious to the coming tragedy the Ducats busily prepared for a late Christmas, wrapping presents for their father, due home at the end of the month. "We were so excited because there was to be a wedding on the island on Hogmanay and we children had never been to one."

iss Ducat is still willing to listen to new theories about what befell her father and his two companions - the assistant keeper Thomas Marshall and an occasional keeper, Donald McArthur, who came from the island of Lewis and was doing duty for a third keeper who was on sick leave. But she is not impressed by the fanciful stories of phantoms or giant seabirds plucking the men to their deaths. She prefers a more straighforward conclusion. Six months before the tragedy, the keepers had been fined five

shillings by the commissioners because landing tackle at the west landing stage had been damaged during a storm. Severe weather had lashed the island during December and the keepers worried that similar damage might occur again. So when the winds moderated on

Saturday, December 15, Mr Ducat and Mr Marshall dutifully went to inspect what damage had been done and make repairs. They donned boots and oilskins and left Donald McArthur in the kitchen. Perhaps only McArthur, being a

local, would have known about the freak wave pattern that builds up in the gully under the west landing stage after severe storms, and which sends a sudden torrent of sea tearing up the cliff face to crash against the stage. Maybe he remembered, suddenly, and ran out in shirt sleeves to warn his companions, only to be caught with them as the sea swept them to their deaths.

Keepers continued to serve on the Flannans until 1971, when the light

### was automated. Those who served there after the tragedy must have reflected often on Gibson's lines: Though not a word was said Three men alive on Flannan Isle Who thought on three men dead. © Times Newspepers Ltd 1990

claustrophobic. At the season of goodwill to all men, many people find them-selves shut up for days, on a rich diet, with nobody but their own relations.

If dyspeptic feelings overwhelm you this morning, one solution might be worth considering for next time. It comes from an unlikely Santa Claus: the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which three years ago joined the British Council and the Victoria League to set up a charity called Host Tapping away at its dating-agency computer in a converted bedroom on the sixth floor of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Host links overseas students with British families prepared to have them to stay.

The Victoria League ran a similar, smaller scheme for Commonwealth countries be-fore 1987, but Host has a wider brief. The charity covers a hundred countries, and students from 18 to 58, with or without their families. One boy was sent from Borneo to Shropshire, where he compared techniques of bee-keeping with enthusiasm. A South Sea islander was given a taste of life on a cider-apple farm in Somerset, and innumerable baffled young Africans have been introduced to the conept of mistletoe.

Easy enough to see what this could do for the claustrophobia — and the guilt of overconsumption, and the family tensions. "You can't have a family row," says one hostess, "with a puzzled foreign face sitting at the table, can you?" But most host families - while acknowledging the definite usefulness of an outsider - rush impatiently on to hymn the greater benefits of the meeting. Such words as enriching, rewarding, hum-

bling, hilarity, magic, and privilege tumble from their lips. "They enjoyed everything - from decorating the house and tree to climbing a hill in the mist and icy wind," says Mary Richards from Wales. "We've had a lot of

If tensions do run high over the holiday, why not invite someone new to calm the family feuding next year?



from Hampshire. "And some beadmistress in East Anglia splendid Chinese. They alwas a bit dubious about taking ways have a stocking, and love on a South American family the candles in the church at with children, because she midnight. I'd miss it dreadfully if ever I couldn't get

There are, of course, odd cultural glitches: Mrs Harris found the Nepalese habit of washing up under running water meant nobody got a hot bath for days. But Host matches up its families carefully, noting if they cannot meet conditions over such things as smoking or hala! mean, or if a student dislikes

bean, South American - and want to give them role models also find it useful. There is a £5 a night payment on offer to taken, but enables less well-off families to join in.

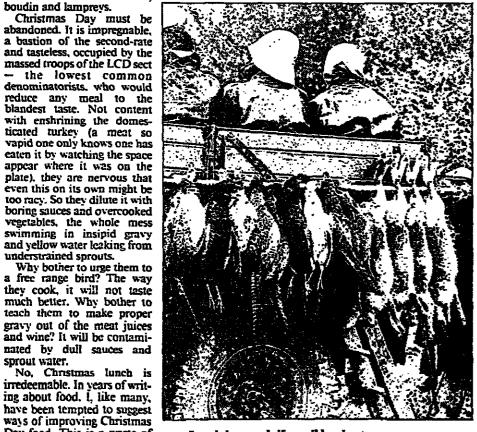
Host operates all year, but there is clearly something special about Christmas Households which are nervous of taking students at other times relax; cultural or wealth differences which might seem embarrassing are swallowed up in the rituals and general present-giving abundance of Christmas. "I think that almost any nationality can take on board the concept of a festival," says Ms Fairfax. "We may not get dressed as dragons or whatever, but it's the same idea of celebration. The Chinese are terribly popular because they always seem to join in the spirit, and insist on cooking a meal for you. Instead of cold turkey on Boxing Day you can eat Chinese." "It's the little things that are so lovely to be able to share," Mrs Harris says. "Like the logs on the fire. The Nigerians were so puzzled what are the sticks for?"."

ack in their bedsitters and college rooms, earnestly studying town planning or metallurgy, the students send tributes which bring lumps to the throat, "My sojoum at Telford", wrote Qiang Zhao from China, "was one of the pleasantest experiences in my life." "For once," wrote Micugo Wagatharia from Kenya, "I felt that I

belong - not floating." Oswald Chammawfa from Tanzania, studying librarianship, cherishes a photograph of himself outside the Skelmersdale library: by the standards of what he must go back to and build up, it must have seemed a treasure-house of culture. He never got inside his hostess had to explain that everything was, of course,

### FOR chaps who enjoy cooking Blood, guts and eating, Boxing Day is the time to launch a full attack. I mean, of course, chaps who enjoy cooking and eating real food, food which smells and and real food tastes of something, food with cock, tripe and bloaters - and blood - in the case of hares,

Turkey's off: dining with a real cook on Boxing Day is not for the delicate



Lunch is served: if possible, shoot your own game

thought to be mashed potato turns out to be a salt cod brandade hitting the back of the throat.

Your meal should also be the opposite of the Christmas lunch in its preparation. The LCDs like dishes which are which will offend. Good food, eat. Things come out of bags, like good music or art. is often packs, paper and plastic and are squeamishly slipped as quickly as possible into dishes, microwaves, foil or more plasbones on his plate, at least one shoot the hare, woodcock, or the funnel of the mincer, then

that they will be bought in the fur or feather, and fondled to see how and where they have been shot.

Game needs hanging in a cold spell, pheasant up to two weeks, hares three. Then there is the plucking, skinning and boring to prepare as well as gutting (but no gutting in the case of the woodcock, whose guts are left in and eaten spread on toast or fried bread with a little Marc).

Sausages provide lots of tic. The Boxing Day chaps, on scope for handling. There are the other hand, not only like the intestines to be de-salted, boudin is cut open, at least one handling food, they like to be the pork to be held and person trying to hide his bit of involved with it as early as chopped, then minced, the hare's liver under the pile of possible. Best, of course, is to intestine to be threaded on to choking cough as what was partridges yourself. Failing stuffed, and tied. The salt cod

will efficiently separate flesh from bones, and no real food enthusiast, having mixed it up with the olive oil, milk and garlic, could put it aside without poking in a finger to Neapolitans eat eels on Christmas Eve. But if Boxing Day is to be the feast of

After poaching, only hands

handled and contentious food, there is a strong case for transferring their consump-tion to the 26th. They are bought live - Italian shops sell them, as do Chinese shops and will keep well and apparently happily in the bath until Boxing Day. Just run a little more water in two or three times a day to aerate them. Then just before cooking, lift them out with a cloth - they emit a sticky substance on touch which will enable them to slip out of bare hands - cut off their heads, gut them, slice them and fry them in olive oil

BUT if you really want an allout war with the LCDs, there is one thing which frightens them even more than food which tastes or needs handling
- smells. LCD kitchens either smell of nothing, or like a cross between a laboratory and a lavishly deodorised lavatory. Garlic, spices, salt fish, frying fish, or browning particularly bloody game will produce smells to upset them.

Best of all, something which combines lots of handling and smells and produces the finest Boxing Day dish, is sheep's tripe. Buy them unwashed from a friendly slaughterhouse. The preparatory boilng alone, quite apart from the final cooking, will flush out anyone with the slightest tendency to LCDism, not only in your house but up to three

doors away on either side. Yes, yes. I know all this advice comes too late for this year. But think. You have a full year to plan. And next Christmas Day you can confine yourself largely to alcohol and dream, as you watch them toying with the cardboard turkey, of the joy and devastation the morrow will bring.

# Happy (extended) families

Merry Christmas? The Garnetts' festive façade in 1985

DIGBY ANDERSON Turks," says Phyllis Harris Susic Fairfax, "a single retired cultures - Thai, Afro-Carib-

wasn't used to them. By the end of it they were calling her English Granny, and the relationship has commued."

The charity is particularly popular with former colonial families ("always bad marvellous hospitality in India, when we were with the Indian army," says the Chadburn family from Somercet; "want to return it") and with church or scouting families who have an interest in particular coun-"Mind you," says Host's adopted children from other

shut for Christmas, But, for him, it did not seem to matter. LIBBY PURVES ◆ Host, 18 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5BJ

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## laiwan to end state

of war i — Taiwan will formally state of war with China May removing an dant obstacle to closer rith Peking and further cratic reform on the President Lee Teng-hui in a sign of continuing ire on the Nationalist amen:, about 10,000

supporters ned here to demand even r change, sident Lee Said the malists would before rescind a 42-year-old gency declaration issued s the coult war and lette a process of constial reform. We hope n the shartest period of that is to say, before May year, we will Geclare an to the period of com-st rebellion, he told the mal Assembly. e reforms would help to e sizes for the eventual Seation of Taiwan with

land China and meet mg demands for democ-Mr. Lee said. ovisions under the decla-1. issued (25) before the onalist government lost ar and flee to Taiwan in Sive sweeping powers to residency and freeze in hundreds of ageing legers elected in China. tal constitutional system. strengthen the operation e constitution, it will be to establiant a foundation ar taunin i ianner desa nent." he sald yesterday,

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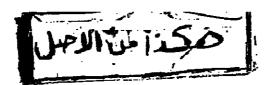
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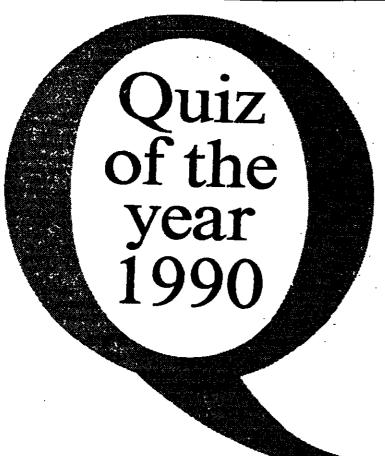
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Can you remember who said what to whom, and where, in this memorable first year of the Nineties? Test yourself with this quiz, compiled by George Hill



O Who said: "When I walk lato the courts of justice, the scales swing round like a Catherine wheel"? CENTURE AND EAST The lion-headed
I knocker of 10 Downing
Street fell off on which of
these symbolic dates in the

(a) The day Britain joined the ERM?

the ERM?

(b) The day of Sir Geoffrey
Howe's resignation speech?

(c) The day Mrs Thatcher
announced her resignation?

(d) The day John Major entered number 10 as PM?

When Mrs Thatcher de-Cided to resign, who said: "Twitight has turned to night"? (a) Teresa Gorman? (b) Paddy Ashdown? (c) Nell Kinnock? (d) Denis Thatcher?

Which MP, who did not Support Mrs Thatcher in the leadership comest, said earlier in the year: "May I say that my right honour-able friend the prime minister is leaking lolly rice.

is looking jolly nice today"?
(a) Michael Heseltine?
(b) Edward Heath?
(c) Edwina Currie?

4 Who said of Mrs
Thatcher's resignation:

"Now sha's on the acraphasp like we will be soon"?

(b) City broker facing recession shakeout?

5 The government of Ut-tar Pradesh proposes to release thousands of tur-tles into local rivers:

(a) To rout gangsters, eat pizza and cry "Cowabunga"?
(b) To eat remains of cre-

mated bodies in the Ganges? (c) As a source of tortoise-

shell for local craftsmen?

6 The Cyprus government has protected beaches where rare turtles breed

by: (a) Asking the British army

(b) Banning a projected tourist hotel there?
(c) Prohibiting the sale of turtle taramasalata?
(d) Imposing a "green levy" on Hero Turtle ticket sales?

Within weeks of the British premiers of the Tur-tie movie, the NHS struck off its list of items supplied on

Dif Judge A is Mr Justice
Henry, Judge B Mr Justice
Harman and Judge C Mr
Justice Michael Devies, then
was R judge A, B or C who:
(a) Apologised to his car in
court for having described it at
an earlier hearing as "a
clapped-out old Volvo"?

(b) Sooke in court of "the

clapped-out old Volvo"?

(b) Spoke in court of "the backet pleasure most of us get seeing a Rolls-Royce clamped"?

(c) Said, after hearing the term "Ms" explained: "I have

always thought there were

only three kinds of women: wives, whores and "mistresses"?

(a) Pizza mix? (b) Turtle soup? (c) Surgical boots?

to stop exercising on the

(a) Miner at a Welsh pit

about to close?

(c) Dr David Owen?

(a) Arthur Scargill? (b) Emest Saunders? (c) Frank Warren?

1 O Britain's first power station fuelled by chicken droppings is being built for £20m near: (a) Wrexham? (b) Diss? (c) Pontefract?

Britain's second strongest earthquake this century had its epicentre neer, (a) Wrexham? (b) Diss? (c) Pontefract?

12 Which if any of the following events happened in Chettenham this year?

year?
(a) Controversy over choice
of a black man as the Tory parliamentary candidate?
(b) Kenneth Baker, the Tory
chairman, tells party conference: "Let this idle chatter cease . . . there is no
vacancy and there will be
no vacancy . . . fovalty and no vacancy . . . loyalty and unity have always been the great strengths of our party"?
(c) The highest temperature ever reliably recorded anywhere in Britain?
(d) The Cheltenham Gold Cup won by a 100-1 outsider?

4 3 What became of the 3 3 plaster cast from the Prince of Wales's broken

(a) Raffled for a church restoration tund? (b) Donated to the National Museum of Polo? (c) Presented to the surgeon who finally set the bone?

A racing pigeon
Twhich won 25 in May
after besting 134 others in
a race from Humberside to
Norfolk belonged to:
(a) Paddy Ashdown?
(b) Paul Gascoigne?
(c) The Aga Khan?
(d) The Queen?

1 5 A species of ant pre-triously unknown to sci-ence was discovered: (a) Eating pizza under a manhole in New York? (b) On the desk of the president of the World Wide Fund for Nature? (c) Inside the crater of Mount Erebus in Antarctica?

16 The pigeon popula-tion of Paris has dou-bled in the past three

(a) Contraceptive pears formerly scattered in the streets have been banned because they contain an unauthorised drug?
(b) Unease about the peliets has deterred the city's tramps from trapping and eating the pigeons?
(c) Pigeon elimination equads have been withdrawn because of brutality protests from tourists?

17 The chart-topping pop duo Milli Vanilli was sacked by its manager because the two:

he senders of the first five correct entries drawn will each receive a copy of The Times Concise Atlas of the World, worth

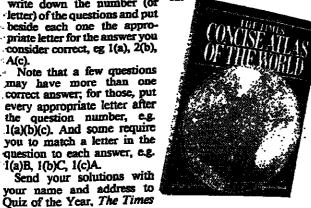
£29.50. To enter the competition, write down the number (or letter) of the questions and put beside each one the appropriate letter for the answer you consider correct, eg 1(a), 2(b),

A(c).

Note that a few questions may have more than one correct answer; for those, put every appropriate letter after the question number, e.g. 1(a)(b)(c). And some require you to match a letter in the question to each answer, e.g. 1(a)B, 1(b)C, 1(c)A.

Send your solutions with your name and address to

(Features), 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN to reach us by the first post on Monday, January 7, 1991. The winners' names and the answers will be published in The. Times on Saturday, January



(a) Stripped naked on stage at a Grammy award ceremony (b) Campaigned for the Democrats in the US mid-tarm elections? (c) Wanted to sing in new

made only by other singers? 10 Who endured three Odays of non-stop rock music, but then admitted defeat?

records issued as theirs, pre-vious ones having been

(a) The Prince of Wales, attempting to spend more time with his family?

alleged crack ring?
(c) Slashed grants mar costumes in Barbican's Hedda Gabler?
(d) Bride effects citizen's arrest on wedding gifts pilferer? (b) Manuel Norlega, holed up in the Papal nunciature by the US army? (c) The Strangeways jail rioters?

1 Of the six writers shortisted for this year's Booker Prize, four had been on the shortist before and another was a former judge. Which was (A) the fourth-time candidate, and (B) the only new face?

(a) Beryl Bainbridge?

(b) A.S. Byatt? (b) A.S. Byatt? (c) Penelope Fitzgeraid?

(d) John McGahern? (e) Brian Moore? (f) Mordecal Richler?

A Why the fancy dreas? (a) Shotgun bride escorts unborn child's father towards altar?

(b) Police done wedding disguise to crack.

(c) Police done wedding disguise to crack.

(d) Salian Resoluted?

THE GREAT AND THE GOOD 20 if parliamentarian A la Nicholas Ridley, B is Timothy Eggar, C is Bar-oness Warnock, D is John Gummer, E is Ron Brown, and F is Patrick Nicholis then was it A,B,C,D,E or F

(a) Pressed his four-year-

old daughter to eat a burger, to show that he was not afraid of mad cow disease?
(b) Was said by a judge to have been "stupid, idiotic and provocative" in pulling a six-year-old into his house to remonstrate with her for taking flowers from his garden?
(c) Commended test-tube baby research on the grounds that hereditary peers would find it useful to ascertain the sex of a potential heir?

sex of a potential heir? (d) Launched a campaign against alcohol abuse, then

was caught drink-driving? (e) Said that a common European currency was "a German racket designed to take over the whole of Europe"? (f) Was charged with crim-inal damage to the flat of his former mistress, and with stealing her knickers?

**Q** 

2 1 Which hitherto invet-erate amoker gave up the habit?
(a) Nicholas Ridley? (b) Deng Xiaoping? (c) Lech Walesa?

Clock and dagger or just a bad habit? (e) Papai security squad at target practice in Vatican? (b) Runaway nuns plead with press to What is the man on the left doing?
(a) Dover tidiness patrol trims nails for unkempt teenagers?
(b) Organ transplant squad asks potential donor to give a hand? leave them alone?

(c) Art thieves cover getaway in snatch of convent's £1m Raphael?

(d) Iranian shooting team in practice at Asian Games in Beijing?

tal donor to give a namo?

(c) Animal rights chain protest foiled by police?

(d) Agitprop theatre's \$truwwelpeter gives old tale political edge? (c) Animal rights chain protest foiled by

22 Who died this year
22 leaving four sons, one
daughter, 12 Fabergé eggs
and 75,000 toy soldiers?
(a) Malcolm Forbes?
(b) Armand Hammer?
(c) Leonard Bernstein?

23 Who died this year
23 leaving a castle, a Palladian mansion, a herd of
1,000 white fallow deer, and
20,000 toy soldiers?
(a) Lord Cholmondeley?
(b) Lord Hamilton of
Dalzell? (c) Lord Daresbury?



SPECIAL

(d) Employee defies council ban on speaking at SNP conference?

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Was £279.94
PRICE

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# Births, deaths and exit, face down

his has been breath-taking year for journalists. We have seen two new launches - and two deaths. We have seen editors come and go. We have read the ers believe has achieved a Calcutt report on privacy, and noticeable change for the betseen the burth of the Press ter, with markedly improved Complaints Commission. coverage of the cultural scene. And we have been covering a. The hurried launch of a new succession of stupendous Saturday Review stabilised

news stories. The complexity of many the previously rather contopics has helped the serious voluted editorial structure at papers much more than the the Sunday Telegraph has tabloids, but that was no help to the luckless Sunday Corres Hastings is now editor-inpondent. It began with the best chief of both newspapers. The of intentions. Unfortunately, previously independent good intentions frequently produce indifferent newspapers (remember News on Sunday?). There was from the setback when a senior memfirst a lack of charisma about ber was dismissed for publishthe paper The magazine was excellent and some of the news coverage - on scarce resources - quite impressive. full year at the Daily Mirror, However, promotion was patchy and the switch to tabloid format came too late. The Independent on Sunday. launched in January, is a far stronger proposition and should prosper when the advertising recession is over. The Listener died too.

Weekly magazines of opinion need rich sugar daddies to pay the bills, and the BBC is too poor and too pervous to play that role any longer. But a circulation of less than 17,000 suggests that the magazine had totally lost its way.

The other launch was, of course. Robert Maxwell's the European. First published in recent rolling averages (for the May, its July circulation was period June to November), certified at 240,000. It looks not one Sunday newspaper, both serious and elegant indeed, it has won a European prize for colour printing - but it exudes such a bland and timeless quality that so far it equivalent six months. gives only a pale reflection of the amazing Nineties. Ian ing column-ridden Mail on Watson, the editor, admits that it has been a difficult year, but claims circulation has now risen to around 300,000, mainly in Europe. With a total staff of 180 and ample supplies of copies visible everywhere, it must cost a fortune to produce. How much, no one is saving.

Charles Wilson vacated the chair at The Times and eventually took up the role of managing director and editorin-chief of the Sporting Life. He was succeeded by Simon Jenkins, whom most observ-

## THE PRESS

### Charles Wintour

ground on the Daily Mail, but the gap is still more than 100,000. The Daily Mirror is closer to the Sun (at last with the circulation. Meanwhile, been straightened out Max Worsthornian college has thus been brought fully into the fold; it suffered a further ing an office confidence. In the tabloid field, Roy Greenslade has had nearly a

with his efforts to boost sales

hampered by the recent price

increase while his prede-

cessor, Richard Stott, is bat-

an increase on last year. The

to get it right.

are fairly stable.

under the newly knighted

Nick Lloyd made up some

tling with the problems of the

on-the-run colour facilities of its own), but the gap is still more than 750,000. Among the qualities the performance of the Independent is striking. Its coverage of the battle for the Tory leadership was particularly confident and free-wheeling, and sales increased by 5,000 in November over October. None the less, the Guardian did even better. increasing its sale by more than 15,000 in November. Perhaps the anti-Thatcher mood of the country helped them both, but it did nothing for the Observer, down more than 100,000 on the June to November period last year, and now said to be losing more than £1 million a month. If circulation proved a problem for some newspapers, the

advertising recession hit them all. "So it's been a good year for advertisers," says the optimist Alec Kenny of Kenny Lockett Booth. "The development of on-the-run colour has led to more attractive papers." He reckons that next year will be even tougher for newspapers; he sees television listings, soon available to all, as the joker in the pack.

So for the new year forecast: market share of advertising will be all-important; in such conditions the battle will go to the strong. Hard times all round will delay the People's float and restrict new publishing projects to the launch pad. The Independent, now backed by continental money, may try a burst of promotion. Mr Maxwell will spring a surprise (he cannot live without them). The Press Complaints Commission will be a success, this year at least. The Gulf war, should it come in all its horror, will see a surge in tabloid sales. And by the end of 1991, we shall all have read too much about one Europe

told us, turning Margaret Thatcher's portrait face down, "nothing lasts forever". Within 48 hours, the Tory leadership ballot saw the incumbent badly bruised; a day and a night later she threw in the towel BBC1's rendering of Michael Dobbs's House of Cards, in a script by Andrew Davies, demonstrated a felic-

ity of timing for which channel controllers cheerfully kill. Fact soon overwhelmed fiction. Mrs Thatcher, determined not to be outdone, treated the viewing public to a pyrotechnic parliamentary display. "I'm enjoying this," she bellowed. Her big finale reminded us of one of the few solid broadcasting achievements of the Thatcher years, the entry of the cameras into the Commons.

Those same cameras had earlier lingered on Sir Geoffrey Howe, as he applied the dagger with a relish last displayed by Nigel Birch in 1963. Birch drew on Browning's The Lost Leader: "Never glad con- place to the languorous

**BROADCAST** 

Brian Wenham

fident morning again." Sir Geoffrey's style was likelier, but the pained look on the face of Jonathan Aitken behind him told all. That look and the speech are forever in the archive. Later that night, Sir Alastair

Burnet proved he retained an edge first displayed 27 years earlier in the last days of Harold Macmillan. Over on the BBC, the verbal burblings of the party chairman were being taken at face value: Sir Alastair went straight for the jugular. "Mr Baker, a divided party, regular resignations, byelection defeats. Isn't the game up?" And then, "but Mr Baker, he's gone, he's left you, it's over". For a moment Kenneth Baker's customary relish for the job in hand

deserted him. In BBC2's Portrait of a Marriage, politics took second

fumblings of Vita and Violet. not yet classless society. Well-crafted though it was. Portrait meandered: Jeanette Winterson's sinewy reworking of her own novel, Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit, emerged as clear winner overall. By December, a little light lesbianism bad fed its way into Capital City, so swiftly do yesterday's taboos become to-

day's new fashion. These mild varieties of buman behaviour were dwarfed by what other animals got up sort of second place. Sleuthing to in Sir David Attenborough's Trials of Life. a startling follow-on from Life on Earth and The Living Planet. Some critics sniffed, feeling jaded, but on any long view Sir David's triptych must stand as the most singular television achievement of this

century's last quarter.

ITV locked into further exploration of the dramatised documentary. Shoot to Kill, Who Bombed Birmingham?, and Why Lockerbie? revived argument about what is and what is not proper. "Straight" documentary was not outshone, with much yet to reveal from behind what was once the iron curtain. Peter Pagnamenta's Nippon for BBC2 scrutinised the supposedly inscrutable with calm efficiency, allowing individual witness to speak for itself, and Peter Taylor proved in The Maze: Enemies Within that even the absurdity of actors mouthing the words of terrorists can be made not to obtrude and obstruct too much.

On the sports screen, cricket went from triumph to disaster, but World Cup football most turned the nation's head. Gazza blubbed his way into the sort of instant celebrity we British all too easily equate with fame. "Our Man Luciano" did well out of the cup. "Nessun Dorma" soared to the top of the charts, so much so that Channel 4's Drop the Dead Donkey had a swear-box for anyone caught humming a phrase. Drop the Dead Donkey was the sharpest of the new comedies, and earned an instant repeat. Ben Elton and Dave Allen were the sharpest individual comedians, with Mr Allen in particularly fine and funny four-letter

form. Elsewhere, Patricia Routledge gave what she would call her all as Hyacynth Bucket in BBC1's Keeping Up Appearances, mocking the finer absurdities of Britain's

For the chattering classes, Twin Peaks went nowhere most engagingly. But Crzysz-tof Kieslowski's Ten Commandments had much moreto it, and came close to those European heights earlier scaled by Edgar Reisz's Heimal. In our own backyard, Coronation Street was 30, and together with EastEnders and The Bill kept the Australian soap invasion back in some was much in vogue, with the quintet of Morse, Poirot, Wexford, Dalgliesh and Taggart reflecting the ITV regional strength of which we

he incumbents of that system are now to be put to the auctioncum-quality test as they seek renewal from the fledgeling Independent Television Commission. The ITC " wrestles, too, with the wreckage of BSB, whose shareholders concluded in November that Sky should fall in on them, thus halving satellite choice overnight. And the BBC waits to hear of subinflation licence increases soon to come. The recession takes its toll, and broadcasting is not exempt.

But the refreshed political scene offers opportunity for some. Mike Yarwood is an early beneficiary of John Major's emergence at 10 Downing Street. Spitting Im- . age got in early with a robotic version of the new leader, to the displeasure of those Eighties Tory image-makers who quietly admit they may have a Nineties problem on their hands. And hovering both in the wings and on an inside track stands the every-ready Michael Dobbs, still on a post-House of Cards high. Here is potential for high mischief. At a pre-Christmas do, Mr Dobbs was reminded that House of Cards deals with the dispatch not of Mrs Thatcher, but of the successor. Are parallels intended, or in prospect? Offering his best Central Office Tebbit-trained grin, Mr Dobbs catch-phrased back: "You might think that. I could not possibly comment."

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Fact and fiction in Downing Street: Margaret Thatcher bowed out while Ian Richardson schemed in House of Cards

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minutes devoted to celebrating the career of Bugs Bunny.
On Channel 4, by contrast, they showed that they know exactly what fanatical religious devotion is all about. I refer, of course, to the Coronation Street Birthday Lecture, delivered by the Rt Hon Roy Hattersley. How fitting to commemorate an ancient soap with a load of old flannel.

But then, this was a day of cultural treats. Courtesy of BBC 2, the high-minded could take their pre-lunch sherry to the sight of Roger Norrington flailing through the Eroica Symphony, and dip into their Christmas puds as the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra glided through Liszt's Faust Symphony. Actually, to spend the whole of Liszt's Faust Symphony eating Christmas pud would be to make a devil's pact of a peculiarly regrettable sort.

Then they could doze gently through Henry Moore and Landscape and progress to deep slum-ber during Philip Glass's soundtrack to a pretentious piece of urban stream-of-consciousness called Powaggatsi. Our insatiable culture-vultures would be saved from fast-encroaching rigor mortis by a bracing burst of Simon Rattle conducting Janáček (the stunning Royal Opera production of The Cunning Little Vixen), and then switch over to Channel 4 for Carmen on Ice: possibly the least steamy interpretation that the Bizet classic has ever received.

Oh, and I nearly forgot to mention Nigel Kennedy, E.T. and The Queen - in separate programmes, of course, which was a pity. A conversation among them would make a remarkable study in the variances of spoken English.

Apart from that small matter of relegating God to three per cent of the air time, the BBC made just one big scheduling blunder. That was by not starting broadcasts until 7am. All parents of small children know that this is at least two hours too late. Non-stop cartoons from 5am are needed, preferably interspersed with hidden, subliminal messages along the lines of: "Your parents are extremely tired . . . let them sleep

... let them sleep."
Still, I see that today we have a real feast of culture on BBC 2 again: Nortington conducting more Beethoven symphonics, Rattle conducting more opera, Leonard Bernstein lectures. Marvelious stuff...and thoroughly worthy ... well worth the licence

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# المحتارة الأصل المحتارة الأصل المحتارة المحتارة

Geoff Brown on Fantasia

The Mahabharata and

Almost an Angel, plus the

e are led into the world of Disney's Fantasia (U, Can-non Shaftesbury Avenue) by Deems Taylor, composer and critic, a horn-rimmed gent and the Richard Baker of his day. He tells us to expect "designs and pictures and stories" inspired by classical music; the head must be cleared, he says in avuncular tones, for the kind of images that "might pass through your mind as you're listening". Yet what kind of mind accompanies Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and company with frolicsome centaurs, dancing hippopo-tami, darting Cupids with heart-shaped

bottoms, or fish with come hither eyes? 1990 marks this extraordinary film's fiftieth anniversary. Each reissue brings new audiences, new generations. Twenty years ago, the psychedelic crowd pounced on the "mind-blowing" colours and extravagant fantasy; the catchment area now is probably tots enslaved by Mutant Turtles. Copies have been struck from the original mitrate negative: the image looks bright

Technology's weapons have also been trained on the music-making of Leopold Stokowski, who appears between se-quences as a God-like magician, alone on a podium, conducting nothing but a sunset glow. Yet the sound of the Philadelphia Orchestra remains distorted in balance, disturbed by ungainly stereophonic separation. By issuing his film in "Fantasound" - an experimental system that needed special equipment - Disney lumbered Fantasia with an albatross still clinging round its neck.

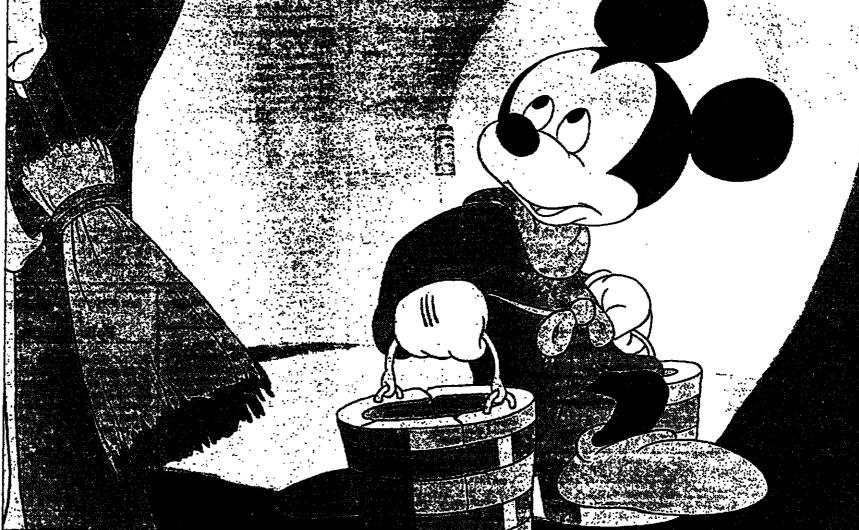
The film swings back and forth between good and bad, the sublime and the ridiculous: that, in part, is its fascination. Disney's artists achieve imaginative wonders with Mussorgsky's Night on Bald Mountain, dipping at the climax into an Expressionist palette of vicious blues, yellows, reds and blacks. They create delicious humour from the prancing menagerie of the Dance of the Hours and Mickey Mouse's star turn in The Sorcerer's Apprentice. Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony, however, conjures up vulgar whimsy, while Schubert's "Ave Maria" concludes with the dull thud of piety.

"Gee, this'll make Beethoven," Disney is supposed to have said. Fantasia did not even make Disney. But this curate's egg has held its ground over 50 years, losing none of its power to leave audiences of any age delighted, amazed, and aghast.
Those searching for a more intellectual

post-Christmas treat can always go to Peter Brook's The Mahabharata (U, Barbican Cinema, Gate Notting Hill). This cinema version of his renowned stage epic, culled from Indian mythology, lasts a mighty three hours, though as the television version lasts seven, the play nine, and the Sanskrit source takes up 18 volumes, we have actually got off lightly.

After an opening flourish of bewildering sights - a king's wife giving birth, for instance, to a large black ball - the film settles down to a graspable narrative about

rival branches of a ruling family: the five



Star turn to the masic of Dukas: Mickey Mouse appears as the Sorcerer's Apprentice in Walt Disney's 1940 feature, Fantasia, which has been reissued yet again

process that war negates all concept of right and wrong. The cast is drawn from Brook's loyal troupe at his International Centre of Theatre Research. The language is English, the inflection often French; the actors, belitting a story of universal significance, come from as far afield as Vietnam, Poland and Senegal.

Over the years, Brook has periodically attempted the dangerous liaison between theatre and cinema. Theatre always gets the upper hand: especially here, where characters unload their philosophical thoughts among rocks with the weight of papier maché. In live performances, Brook regularly wrests magic from minimal settings; here, the camera's close scrutiny and the drab colour makes it far harder for audiences to fall under the spell. Talk is everything: wise words, delivered with passion and clarity, but talk all the same. Imagine what Kurosawa would have made of the climactic battle; Brook, attuned to the characters' inner anguish, tosses away the spectacle in a few muddy flurries.

The Mahabharata offers food for the

mind, if not the eyes. Paul Hogan's new American film, Almost an Angel (PG, Empire), offers neither, nor does it capita-lise satisfactorily on the proven appeal of

blind king Dhritharashtra. Pandu's sons, the Crocodile Dundee star. Hogan (workguided by Krishna, return from exile to ing from his own script) plays a seasoned fight for their territory, discovering in the thief who brushes with death and returns to life, so he thinks, as a probationary angel. Determined to do good, he holds up a fast-food outlet to give the needy 200 tuna rolls. Moving to fresh fields, he befriends an embittered youth with a spinal tumour, romances his sister, and restores life to her recreation centre.

> ogan's cheerful irreverence prompts a few early chuckles, but the combination of feeble jokes and a dawdling pace swiftly brings the film to its knees. The director is John Cornell, Hogan's partner from his Australian days, while Linda Korlowski, adornment of both Dundee films, gets stuck with the cliché of the earnest girl who begins with glasses and swept-back hair but unlocks her beauty in time for the happy ending.

> Supernatural themes staged a remarkable Hollywood comeback this year, wooing audiences with comforting notions of life beyond the tumult of a century and civilisation fast running out of time. The emerging fashion did nothing to help Steven Spielberg's Always at the box-office, though the meretricious Ghost took off during the summer, leaving much-hyped blockbusters panting for breath.

> > DONALD COOPER | RADIO

Warren Beatty's version of Dick Tracy was rammed hard down our throats. For a film derived from the screaming panels of a comic-strip, however, it seemed a remarkably frigid exercise. David Lynch's Wild at Heart, another target for ballyboo, went to the other extreme, of feckless indulgence. Neither earns a place on my Best Films of the Year list.

So what films do? I would be loath to nominate the traditional ten, though bouquets have been earned by a large handful. Martin Scorsese's GoodFellas, flawed though it was, restored dynamic thrust to American narrative film-making; Jane Campion's Sweetie and An Angel at my Table showed an enormous new talent wielding a fresh pair of eyes. The restored print of Jean Vigo's 1934 classic, L'Atalante, recalled cinema's potency as a vehicle for poetic fantasy; while Alan Rudolph's undervalued Love at Large took the detective genre for an enjoyably crazy walk.

-British cinema kept a low profile, though there were scattered achievements. Philip Saville and Michael Eaton's blacklist tale, Fellow Traveller, tackled intelligent subject-matter with aplomb; The Krays forged a fierce psychological drama from the East End brothers' lives and crimes. In the shoestring budget division, the Amber collective's In Fading Light, set go to die?

against northern England's declining fishing industry, brought a raw air of reality to

the wilting semi-documentary form.
Whit Stillman's Metropolium, a sleek comedy of manners, was the year's most surprising debut; Patrice Leconte's intense tale of sexual obsession, Monsieur Hire, unearthed a valuable French talent new to Britain (though this was his ninth feature). The year's most intense and challenging cinema appeared on the small screen, not the large. Krzysztof Kieslowski's cycle The Ten Commandments, transmitted by the BBC, rigorously explored the quagmire of modern morality, and showcased the virtues of strict cinematic control in a Patulent age.

As for brickbats, two must be hurled with particular force: one at Joel Schumacher's Flatliners, for being oppressively over-designed, shallow and ghoulish; another at Bird on a Wire, for insulting the audience's intelligence.

Finally, my prizes for the year's most absurd titles. Stuff Stephanie in the Incinerator and Chopper Chicks in Zombietown - neither yet released in Britain -- earn high marks for cheek. However, an American television feature. Where Pigeons Go to Die, narrowly wins, because of its plangent intimations of boredom ahead. Who cares where pigeons

THEATRE: PICK OF 1990

## Measures of love

Benedict Nightingale on why Brian Friel's

Dancing at Lughnasa is his play of the year

his year, 1990, was the year when the Royal Shakespeare Company exiled itself to Stratford, David Mellor ended his stint in the cultural counting house by securing unexpectedly large sums for the nation's troubled theatres, and the Arts Council proceeded to share out the loot somewhat less than evenhandedly. It was the year when everybody who was not saving the Young Vic, performing in a Sondheim musical, celebrating Arthur Miller's 75th birthday, or directing King Lear, seemed to be writing plays about the Eastern bloc, not always very good ones.

But it was also a year which brought to the National a new play that will surely be revered and revived when such transitory happenings have been relegated to the theatrical annals. Amid all the financial babble and cultural burble, Brian Friel's Dancing at Lughnasa impretentiously embo-

died more lasting virtues: com-plexity, depth, magic, spirit, soul. On one level, Dancing at Lughnasa is another Irish mem-ory-play, like Hugh Leonard's Da or Friel's own Philadelphia, Here I Come. It cannot be a coincidence that the narrator, like the author, was aged seven in 1936, the year he spends the evening revisiting, nor can it be accidental that, again like his author, he was brought up near the western border of Ulster and Eire. What matters, though, is that Friel writes as though he has lived out his play, if not literally then imaginatively. Nowadays it is fashionable to dismiss this as nostalgia. On this occasion, it would be better described as a

quiet intensity of love and regret. The main characters are the five Mundy sisters, second cousins to Chekhov's three Prozorovs, and, rather like them, precariously clinging to the remnants of their gentility in the rural outback. Chris is the narrator's unmarried mother, still in love with his restless, feckless father. Rose, mentally subnormal, launches into an affair with a local bad boy. and then loses her job, as does Agnes. Maggie, unemployed from the start, forlornly plays the family joker. "Hair cracks are appearing everywhere," confides Kate, the eldest and most responsible sister. "Control is slipping away. The whole thing is so fragile it can't be held together much longer."

Disintegration, collapse and exile are familiar Irish themes, but, as Friel handles them, they are simultaneously funny and painful wholly particular and hauntingly resonant, like distant music echoing across a valley. Dancing at Lughnasa is not, repeat not, just an elegiac study of social change. It is about human hope, disappointment and resilience. There is more than a hint of Beckett in Friel's play, mellower though it is than anything the older Irishman could bring himself to write.

But it is something else that finally gives the evening its special quality, something embodied in the title. Lughnasa is a Celtic leftover, a druidic harvest festival which annually sets the local people dancing round fires and sometimes doing barely mentionable things in their glow.

Little wonder, perhaps, that the only male Mundy, himself a priest, has returned from an African leper colony converted or reconverted to paganism. The play is never more hilarious than when he blandly recommends polygamy or blood sacrifice to his stunned sisters. It is also never more to the

What Friel is suggesting is that old, heathen forces are alive if suppressed in God-fearing Bally-beg, and may at any time burst, out, like steam through plating less sturdy than it looks. The form these take can be funny, joyous, ugly, liberating, or all those things

How many contemporary playwrights are capable of bringing such rich ambiguity to matters so

elemental? On the evidence of 1990, few if any. There was subtlety and a new warmth in Simon Gray's latest portrait of the scribbling classes in emotional disarray, Hidden Laughter. In her Mad Forest, the best of those plays about the upheavals in Eastern Europe, Caryl Churchill showed that politics and dramatic complexity can co-exist. But there was evidence of mance.



Alec McCowen, Catherine Byrne (front) and Anita Reeves in Dancing at Lughnasa, as seen at the Royal National Theatre

insularity and clockwork thinking in too many of the new socially significant plays.

As far as drama is concerned, the disappearance of Mrs Thatcher should prove a great boon. Playwrights may at last start thinking through their political agenda instead of balefully reacting to a convenient hate-figure. But it will take more than a change of leader to dent the sentimental marxism of Edward Bond, once a major dramatist but now, as his anti-war Jackets II indicated, lost to paranoia and didactic cari-

And another thing. While I am using Lughnasa to belabour just about everything else in 1990, let me not forget Patrick Mason's beautifully judged production of the play, a blend of requiem and tarantella without one jarring note. What a contrast with the visual ado of A Clockwork Orange or of the West End revival of Vaclav Havel's Temptation, and refreshing, after the excesses of John Malkovich in Burn This, the year's most overpraised perfor-

There have always been actors who have shown off and upstaged others. In recent years there have also been plenty of directors prepared to impose their own intellectual prejudices on innocent texts. But the passing of the 19th century should surely have marked the end of the sort of hamfistedly extravagant produc-tion designed, not to embody a play, but to distract the audience from its actual or supposed shortcomings. That inevitably brings me back to Moscow Gold, the year's greatest disappointment.

What a pity that the RSC, which had an exceptionally strong season at Stratford, should have elected to send so feeble a piece to Russia.
The Soviet people have sufferings enough this winter without being subjected to Howard Brenton and Tariq Ali's schoolroom crush on President Gorbachev

The piece uniquely combined intellectual boorishness with meretricious show. It might have come from a different galaxy to that which produced the understated sensitivity of Dancing at Lughnasa

Baiting the hand that feeds him

Somewhere in transit between New York, New York, and York, Yorkshire, a malignant bug has mugged Victor Lewis-Smith's inner tubes. A racking cough is bad news for a broadcaster who records the voices and music and sound effects for his own programmes in his own front room, "If we recorded a show now all the characters would have flu." So the advertised Christmas Special tonight on Radio 1 will be replaced by the compilation of

pacey, risky, puerile and sharp-edged programmes that won Lewis-Smith and his co-writer Paul Sparks this year's Radio Comedy Award. At the ceremony he made a speech which mysteriously disappeared before transmission. Beneath improbable matted dreadlocks his pudgy features assume a mildly puzzled expression. "I just said that TV people go to all the hip joints while

radio people have to have plastic The "studio" contains a wordprocessor, a synthesizer and electric piano, a fat reel-to-reel Revox tapedeck and, crucially, a DAT double tapedeck that enables hissfree multi-tracking for the manic, Sellers-inspired crowd scenes. A tenor saxophone stands mute before a music stand bearing a half-written composition. Lewis-Smith's subject at the University of York. Sparks has a PhD in

Their sardonic double act tends to derail Pythonesquely. When Lewis-Smith tells me that Harry Enfield used to live across the square, Sparks butts in with: "Albert Camus, he was another one. What a bastard, always coming round for milk."

The room has not a scrap of sound insulation; in summer birdsong intrudes. "If the BBC's head of engineering walked in here he would get the place con-demned. But it is much faster here than if we were working in Broadcasting House. And it is easier to have control when you're away from the Light Enter-tainment clique."

As a sometime producer for Radio 4 ("You can see the suffering in my eyes") Lewis-Smith has a technical mastery of the medium which enables true creativity.

Next month he and Sparks and associates are bidding for the local commercial radio franchise. "The The iconoclastic

programme maker Victor Lewis-Smith richly deserves his

success, according to **Martin Cropper** 

idea of the formal studio will go,

we will use clip-mikes in an ordinary room. We are geared for television as well," he remarks, pointing to a 1959 ex-BBC TV camera in the corner, "if we can convert the country to 405 lines. We have formed a company called Associated Rediffusion Television Productions. It's legal." But the most celebrated item of

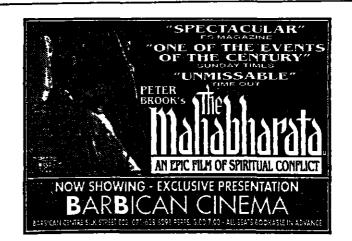
hardware present is the telephone from which Lewis-Smith makes surrealistic calls to a variety of hapless victims. Though meticulously mapped out in advance, these pranks can easily boo-merang. A conversation with Mo-Donald's in Moscow ("a takeaway order for my friends Burgess and Maclean") foundered when he overstepped the mark with a comparison between a Big Mac and Sputnik 2: you can be certain the sputnik will have a dog in it. A high-handed call to a public school headmaster came unstuck when Lewis-Smith pressed the subject of corporal punishment in too much

He is not above biting the corporation that feeds him. Tonight's broadcast features a crunchingly funny and rather appalling phone call to the producer of *That's Life*, in which the

prankster announces himself as a paraplegic who can play "The Sailor's Hornpipe" in four sec-onds flat while his pet dog runs in and out of the spokes of his wheelchair. The call climaxes with Lewis-Smith pretending to fall over and moaning for help, to the consternation of the listening BBC

The blithe impudence of these projects would be nothing without their luminous bad taste: others try, he delivers. Lewis-Smith cannot quite understand (a) how he manages to get away with it and (b) why there are not more complaints from the great listen-ing public. "There really cannot be any ghetto areas. If you are going to write and broadcast comedy you cannot be touchy about anything, least of all yourself. We have done stuff that could easily be interpreted as right-wing, but better that than no-go areas."

In the steps of Joe Orton and Henry Root, he occasionally fires off ludicrous complaining letters. Three members of North Yorkshire CID once turned up during a dinner party looking for "a Mr Rees-Bunce" who had shut down a soup factory's production line while the company searched the French Onion vats for condoms. All the same, he dislikes Jeremy Beadle - "There is no edge there" - and disdains all those who fix their accents in whichever direction. "I despise Nigel Ken-nedy, he rings untrue." His magnificently cruel demolition of the populist fiddler purports to be in aid of The Patronising Musicians' Benevolent Fund. Enjoy. • The Best of Victor Lewis-Smith is broadcast on Radio I tonight at 10.30pm.



ΆLΕ

C=0 (7)

ALMOST AN ANGEL (PG): Crocodie
Dundie stur Paul Hogen as a professional thief
who believes he has returned from the
clead to do good deeds. Feeble excursion into
supernetural whensy; director John
Connell, with Linda Koziowski.
Cannons: Baker Street (071-935 9772)
Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Oxford Street
(071-636 0310).

FANTASIA (U): Disney's famous visualisation of courier cancer clearics ricochets between the chaming, the clever, and the dissistrously cate. With Mickey Moute as the Sorcer's Apprentice; music played by Leopold Stokowski and the Carnden Parkway (071-257 7034) Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 8861) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520).

THE MAHABHARATA (U): Three-hour version of Peter Brook's stage epic which delvas into Indian legends about the history of the world. Visually drab, though the material gradually compele attention. Barbican (071-638 8891).

CURRENT

♦ AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE (15): Jone Campion's excellent film about the New Zealand writer Janet Frame. Renoir (071-837 8402).

 BLUE STEEL (16): Tough, blood-epatiered police thriller with a feminist stant from director Kathryn Bigelow.
Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Mezzenine (071-930 6111). COME SEE THE PARADISE (15): Alam Parker's romantic drama about the Ameri treatment of the Japanese after Pearl

Odeon Haymarket (071-839 7697). THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (18): Rupert Everett and Natasha Richardson moothing around Venica, falling prey to the warped Christopher Walken. Laboriou

psychological drama. Curzon Mayfair (071-499 3737). 

♦ THE FRESHMAN (PG): Quirky, unevent

☐ SOOKENDS: Disappointingly empty tate of two literary blokes: Michael Hordern and Directele Lenden try to find some content. Apolio, Shatteabury Avenue, W1 (071–437 Commons Cardinary of the Source Content. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-437 2663) Underground: Piccadilly, Mon-Frt, Sprn, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Sat, Sprn. Running time: 2hrs. Ends January 12. (Open Jan 1)

☐ THE BOYS NEXT DOOR: Tom Line but a next DOURE from Griffin's patronsing view of the mentally ill-adjusted. Fine acting, with Sleve Guttanberg. Transler from Hampstead. Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (071-85\* 1045), Underground: Piccadilly Mc

■ DANCING AT LUGHRASA: Brien Friel's hauntingly beautiful memory play that brings Donegel Catholic prudery up against pagan ecstasy.

National (Lytisticn), South Bank, SE1
(071-928 2252), Underground/SR: Watertoo.
Tonight, tomorrow, 7:30pm, mast temorrow,
2.15pm, Running time; 2ms 30mms.

Z. GASLIGHT: Annie Cestiedine's superbly atmospheric production of Patrick Hamilton's thriller. Performances excellent, Hamilton's briller. Performances excesses the plot groping. Greenwich, Croom's Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). British Rail: Greenwich, Mon-Set, 7-45pm, mats Wed-Fri, 3.30pm, Set, 2.30pm. (Closed Jen 1)

GASPING: John Gordon Sincleir and L) GASPING: John Gordon Sincleir and Jim Carter in Ben Elton's greenish comedy. Pather over the top but lots of leughs. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Underground: Procadilly, Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, St. 8 30pm, met Set, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. Ende February 16. (Closed Jan 1)

☐ HIDDEN LAUGHTER: Hannah Gordon and Paler Barkworth in Simon Gray's thoughtprovolung play. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9967). Underground: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hre 15mins. (Open Jan 1)

INTO THE WOODS: Soncheim's witty mix of farytales; grammer than Garann in the first half, turns electry thereafter. Phoenix, Channig Cross Read, WC2 (071-240 9861). Underground: Tottenham Court Road, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mets Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 50mins. (Open Jan

THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP: Speed Gothic meladrams, ranging between the farcically funny and the feebly frantic. Ambassedors, West Street, WC2 (071-836 6111). Underground: Leicester Squa ets Thurs, 3pm, Set, 4pm. Mon-Set, 8pm, mets Thurs, 3pm, Set, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs. Ends Jenuary 5. (Open Jan

CRNDERELLA: London City Bellet has wisely chosen an alternative Christmas choice for its London season. The production, choreographed by William Morgan, is stronger on cornedy then on remance and is a fun night out. Levish designs by Joha

Engel. Sadier's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916), 2:30pm, 7:30pm. THE NUTCRACKER: There are two performences today of Peter Winght's version for the Royal Ballet. The matinee features company debuts by Oarcey Bussell and Stuert Cassely as the Sugar Plum Farry and the Prince, and in the later performance, Viviana, Durante is partnered by Gruce Sanson Royal Opera House, Covent Garden,

### CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country.

Note: Please check with cinemas for changes in opening times during the Christmas week

speci of The Godfether, with Merion Brando as spoor or The Constrain, when he stands as the mobiler who have a New York film student (Metthew Broderick) as a delivery-boy. Writer-director, Andrew Bergman. Odeons: Kensington (071-802-6644/5) Mezzanine (071-800-6111).

● GOODFELLAS (18): Martin Scorsese's GOUDD-ELLAS (16) Mema Scoreses gargister apic following a New York hoodium's rise and fail. With Robert De Nec. Cannon Fulham Road (071-370 2636) Curzon West End (071-439 4805) Screen on Balar Street (071-855 2772) Whiteleys

A HENRY AND JUNE (18); Ands Nin's HERRY AND JUNE (18): Ands Nin's pessionate affair with Herry Miler in bohomiss Paris recreated with a grandiose tair by chector Philip Ksutman.

Carnoth Fullham Road (071-370 2636)

Empire (071-467 9999) Notting Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Whiteleys (071-752 333/3294).

**▲ HOME ALONE (PG): Plucky kid left** elone at Christmas werds off burbling burglers. Broad, machine-bolled American teruly fun from writer-producer John Hughes. A big UShit.

big LIS hit. Cumden Parkway (071-267 7034) Cumvons: Chelsee (071-352 5096) Haymarket (071-839 1527) Oxford Street (071-353 (310) Odeons: Kensington (071-602 6844/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Mezzanine (071-830 6111) Warner (071-438 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/8324)

♦ THE HOT SPOT (18): Reging sexual fires and dupticaly in a lazy Texas town, deliciously evoked by director Dennis Hopper. Don Johnson as the drifter who unearths a homet's nest. Cennon Chelses (071-352 5096) Prince Charles (071-437 8181).

THE KICLE THIEF (PG): Greatly engaging comacly settining Italian neo-realism and the screening of films on talevision. Written and directed by, and starring, Meurizio Nichetti—an Italian comic hugaly popular on his home turl.

Metro (071-437 0757).

♦ THE LITTLE MERMAID (U): Dianey's much-touted version of Hens Christian

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London House full, returns only Some seats available

Seats at all prices Note: There may be slight changes to performance times during the

COUT OF ORDER: Donald Sinden puffs.

PIANO: Awkward but highly watchable extension by Trevor Griffiths of Chekhovian themes and characters.

☐ PRIVATE LIVES: Keith Bexter, Joan Collins and Sara Crowe in Coward's comedy. Alchaych, Alchaych, WC2 (171-1356 6004). Undestrount: Covert Gertler, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm. Running time: 2hrs 15mins, Ends Jenuery 28, (Coon, len).

stylish production (conturnes by Jaspa Conran) of Anouith's seduction play. Garrick, Chering Cross Read, WC2 (071-379 6107). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mms. (Open Jan 1) ☐ THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW: Reucous and wild, bold and bizarre; sometimes

Affable Ruse poorly served by state material in old-fashioned show. London Palladium, Argyle Street, W1 (071-437 7373). Underground: Oxford Circus. Non-Sat, 230pm and 7.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 30mins. (Open Jen 1) ☐ SCENES FROM A MARRIAGE: Alen

Howard and Penny Downie in Bergman's two hander: disappointingly stack after its transfer from Chichester.

London WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), 2.30pm

AUSTEN BROTHERS CIRCUS: The renowned circus returns to Battersea P its usual value-for-money show. Expect Mongolien contortionists, the award-wi wns and vanous aenal acts (no wild arimats in the ring). Hippodrome Tent. Sartersea Park, London SW11 (071-924 1111), 3pm, 8pm.

GEORGE MELLY: Bessie Smith's English descendant continues his annual residency

Andersen's funtasy.
Odeons: Haymarket (071-839 7697)
Kensington (071-802 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5905) Wemer (071-439 0791)
Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

METROPOLITAN (15): Whit Stitmen's wackedly stonic comedy of manners set among New York's debutantes and prepriets over one Cristmes holders. Witty dislogue, engaging young actors, elegant direction. Cannon Chelses (071-352 5095) Lumière (071-836 0891) Screen on the Hitl (071-435 3367). METROPOLITAN (15): Whit Stiffmen's

♦ THE NEVERENDING STORY PART 2 ♦ THE NEVERLENDING STORY PAIN 2 (U): A return visit to the land of Fentasia. Visually spectacular, but the plot is a jumble and an unskeable child actor, Jonathan Brands, spoils some of the fun. Cannons: Full am Road (071-370 2636) Oxford Street (071-536 0310) Warner (071-439 0791) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

 PRIESUMED #NOCENT (15): Alan
J. Paloula's shesing, thoughtful various of Scott
Turow's bestseller, with Harmon Ford and Greta Sciences, militramento de Greta Sciences, militramento Commone: Fulhari Road (071-370 2636) Partino Street (071-930 0631) Tottenhem Court Road (071-636 6146) Wanner (071-439 0791) Whitaleya (071-792 3303/3324).

THE SHELTERING SKY [18]: A chilling novel (by Paul Bowles) filmed with a warmivisus sweep by Bernardo Bertaluca with John Melkowch and Datra Winger. Odeon Leicester Square (071-930 8111).

♦ TEENAGE MIUTANT NINJA TURTLES PG): Noisy, charmless feature or the new pop culture fact. nor me new pop calaure kap Cennon Chelsea (171-352 5086) Odeomic Kensington (071-602 6644/5) Swiss Cottage (0426 914 088) West End (071-930 5252/7615) Whiteleys (071-792 3303/3324).

THREE SISTERS (12): Chekhov updated to an Italian university town in the 1600s. Sparks fly from all three actresses (Fanny Ardant, Greta Soscoti, Valeria Golino), yet the film stays in low geer. Director, Margarethe von Trotta.

Premiera (U71-438 4470). TIME OF THE GYPSIES (15): Noisy

I mae OF The GYPSHED (16) NORTH SECOND OF THE GYPSHED CONSCIPLING SEP-pieces, but the dejointed narrative stops the film's energy. Camden Pieza (071-485 2443) Chelsea A WORLD WITHOUT PITY (15): Life and

loves of a Pansian leyabout; a promising debut by young French director Eric Rochant, with disaming performances (Hippolyla Girardot, Mireille Pernes). Renoir (071-837 8402).

Thribe StSTERS: Three Redgraves in admirable if over-busy production: Vanessa and Lynn outstanding as the older girls. Outsen's, Shelsebury Avenue, W1 (071-734 1185). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Running time: Shes. (Open Jan 1)

LI TIME AND THE CONWAYS: Joen Plowright and lots of other Ofiviers in Priestle dulish play, set in 1919 (twice) and 1938. Old Vic. Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7616). Underground: Waterloo, Mon-Fri, 7:30pm, Set, 7:45pm, mats Wed. 2:30pm, Set, 4pm. Pluming time: 2)ms 35mins. Ends February 16. (Open Jen 1)

WHAT THE BUTLER SAW: Incest.

III THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Alan

National (Olivier) (as left). Tonigt 7.15pm, mats temenow-Sat, 2pm time: 2hrs 45mms. (Open Jan 1)

to the virtuo in the war owns; Aan Bennett's emphanting new version, with joby sets popping up on the revolve, with Griff Rhys Jones, Richard Briser and al. National (Olivier) (as left). Tonight-Sat. 7.15pm, mats tomorrow-Sat. 2pm. Flunning three 2bm. 45mm; (Passan).

LONG RUNNERS: 
Absurd Person
Singular: Whitefall (071-867 1119) (Open Jen

7 ork's (071-836 5122) (Open Jan 1) . . . 🗀 A

III WHAT THE BUTLER SAW: Incest, esseut and blascust juriseting preserved in the aspic of Joe Orton's wit. Not quite a top-class production but well worth seeing. Hampstead, Avenue Road, NN/3 (071-722 9301). Underground: Swise Cottage Mon-Set, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm, Runsing time: 2hs. Extended to January 16. (Open Jen 1)

### Square, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, Running time: 2ms 20mne, Enda January 26. (Closed Dec 26, 31, Jan 1) THEATRE GUIDE

Li Cull Or Orbert Corea Sincer purs, Michael Williams panics, in latest Ray Cooney fance: over-plotted, under-developed. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-379 5399), Underground: Hotborn, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8,30pm, mats Wed, 2,30pm, Sat, 5,30pm, Running time: 2hrs 15mins. (Open Jan 11)

triemes and cherecters. National (Cottesioe) (as left). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm. Running time: 2hrs 10mins.

☐ THE REHEARSAL: lan McDiamald's

reaccus and wwo, both sand accuracy, someon dealering rock musical. Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (071-867 1118). Underground: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs, Spin. Fri, Sat. 7 pm and 9.15pm. Running time: 1hr 30mins. (Open Jan 1) TRUSS ABBOT'S MADHOUSE

Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Underground: Leicester

### TODAY'S EVENTS

(071-836 2238) (Open Jan 1). Ticket information on member theatres supplied by Society of West End Theatre

with John Chilton's Feetwarmers. Ronnie Scott's Club, Frith Street, London W1 (071-439 0747), 8.30pm. ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: Christopher Bell conducts popular classics including Dvolisk's New World Symphony and Grieg's Plano Concerto (soloist Murray McLachtan) ican Half. Silk Street, London EC? (071-638 8891), 7.45pm.

THE ROD, JANE AND FREDDY CHRISTMAS SHOW: Songs and sketches by the musical tro who present the popular Thames Television children's sense Rambow. A show for three-to nine-year-olds. Ambassadors Theatre, West Street, London WC2 (071-835 6111), 2pm, 4pr

# Children's Christmas shows

Jeremy Kingston reviews what's on stage in London, and suggests productions nationwide

### Jack and the Beanstalk Albany Empire

THIS theatre is almost as hard to find as the rainbow's end. New Cross is close by but a few signs on the main road would save the motorist from driving past, reversing and getting caught in the oneway system.

Persistence is rewarded with a folly show, directed by American Teddy Kiendl, who puts in a forestage and catwalk that bring the cast right into the audience. Up in the lantern the sole of the giant's boot can be glimpsed, waiting for its abrupt descent in the second half.

Tony Marshall and Eddie Nestor are a grandly aggressive pair of rogues. Jack is played by Judith Jacobs from EastEnders and Gillian Wright is a very funny Princess Fenella, with a compulsion to eat frogs and a voice that

### The Gingerbread Man Unicorn Theatre

DESPITE shricks of "Oh, no, you're not!" and "Behind you!", mass hysteria reminiscent of Beatlemania, and a cacophonous singalong, there is nothing routine about this bright little show by David Wood, far more stimulating than the average panto.

Salt, Pepper, and Herr von Cuckoo come to life à la Nutcracker and encounter the newly baked Gingerbread Man among the stock cubes on the kitchen dresser. Von Cuckoo is faced with oblivion in the dustbin if he cannot cure his sore throat and do some decent clock-clucking, while old Ginger's destiny seems to lie in a breakfast-time Armageddon, assuming Sleek the Mafioso Mouse does not munch him first, and that he can escape the clutches of the

Old Bag, a grumpy teapot-dweller. With its imaginative depth, ambivalent characters and unpatronising approach, this would be the ideal children's play, if only the singing were better. Recommended, nevertheless.

● 6 Great Newport St, WC2 (071 836 3334). Underground: Leicester Sauare. Dec 27 to 30, Jan 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 13: 2.30pm. £3.50-£6.50.

### In London • ANGELO: Seasonal revival of

Quentin Blake's tale of a family of Italian acrobats, performed by rod puppets, Little Angel Marionette Theatre, off Cross St. 14 Dagmar Passage, off Cross St, NI (071 226 1787). Underground:

Highbury & Islington. Today-Dec 30, 3pm; Dec 27, 28, 3pm and 6.30pm; Jan 2-6, 3pm. £3-£4. 1hr 30mins. Shorter version for 3 to 6year-olds: Dec 29 and Jan 2 to 5: 11am. £2.50-£3.50. 1hr 15mins.

 CAPTAIN BEAKY AND HIS BAND: Musical show, based on the Jeremy Lloyd book, tells some gospel stories from the animals' POV. Done with panto effects and Patrick Careill playing Artful Owl Aged three and upwards.

Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071 839 4401). Underground: Embankment. Today, 4pm and 7.30pm; Dec 27, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; Dec 28, 7.30pm; Dec 29, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. £8-£16. • CINDERELLA: Bonnie Lang-

ford goes to the ball, assisted by Barbara Windsor, Gyles Brandreth and other TV names. Wimbledon Theatre. The Broadway. SW19 (081 540 0362). Underground: Wimbledon. Today-Sat and Dec 31 to Jan 5:



sounds as though she gargles with • Douglas Way, Deptford, SE8 tadpoles. Brian Hibbard, ex-Flying Picket, plays the Dame, and the Channel Tunnel jokes cue in puns on "oui". Great stuff.

### A Tale of Christmas Past Polka Theatre

SCROOGE appears in this blend of Dickens's life and fiction but does so as the equivalent of demon king, aiming to wreck the young hero's happiness but thwarted by Fairy Goodness, otherwise Betsy Trotwood. Though written and directed by Vicky Ireland, Polka Theatre's director, the overlap of fact and fiction could bewilder a child not yet acquainted with either.

The prettily painted sets hinge

### The Adventures of Star Dog Polka Theatre

FOR the very young this is an ideal introduction to theatre, as they sit on cushions in the Adventure Room beneath the tented ceiling hung with stars. Genial old woolgathering Sam (John Hart Dyke) cooks a lonely supper, peers through his telescope and down from the sky comes the mischievous Star Dog (Anthony Corriette).

This advertisement for acceptably naughty behaviour does all MICHAEL WRIGHT | the wrong things with his spoon

Captain Beaky: Owlish Patrick

Cargill with David Kelsey (see left)

2.30pm and 7.30pm. £7.50-

• THE HORSE AND HIS BOY:

Sumptuous costumes, evocative

lighting and beautifully stylised

horses overcome arid patches of

• JACK AND THE BEAN-

talk in this C.S. Lewis story.

(071 388 1394). Underground: Euston. Today to Dec 29, and 31 to Jan 5: 2.30pm and 7pm (only 7pm perf on Jan 1). £3.95-£8.75.

(081 691 3333). Tue to Sat:

7.30pm. Mats Thurs, Fri. Sat: 2pm. £2.50-£7.50. Underground:

open cunningly, and Martino

Lazzeri makes a sprightly young Charles (also the Artful Dodger)

guiding his younger brother (Jo-

anne McInnes) through the early

adventures of Oliver, David and

Pip. Bill Sykes's dog, painted on the seat of an upturned stool and

kicked to keep him quiet, is a good

incident; but parents are advised

to brief children beforehand, and

probably throughout.

• 240 Broadway, Wimbledon,

SW19 (081 543 4888). Today: 2pm

and 5.30pm; Dec 27, 28: 10.30am

and 2pm; Dec 29, Jan 1: 2pm and

5.30pm; Jan 2: 2pm; Jan 3, 4:

10.30am and 2pm. £6. Under-

and spaghetti but has brought his

own toothbrush. His attempts to

clamber into pyjamas caused hys-

teria on the cushions, while his

bedtime story is the Three

Billygoats Gruff ingeniously told

costumes, props and models from

previous productions. Cakes, drinks and hot food available at

• 240 Broadway, Wimbledon,

SW19 (081 543 4888). Today (Dec

26): 12.30pm and 2.30pm; Dec 27,

28: 11am and 2.30pm: Dec 29: Jan

1: 12.30pm and 2.30pm; Jan 2. 3,

4: 11am and 2.30pm. £2.20.

Underground: Wimbledon. 45

On display in the foyer are

ground: Wimbledon. 2hrs.

with dishmops.

the Pantry.

To Jan 12.

New Cross. 2hrs 30mins.

• JUST SO: The Elephant's Child finds out about life. A musical version that lacks gripping power but the lyrics have wit and some of the effects are fun. Tricycle, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071 328 1000). Underground: Kilburn. Mon to Sat 8pm. mat Sat, 4pm. £5.50-£9.

• ROBIN HOOD: Surprisingly unsparky panto for this home of jolly rudery. Colin Gourlay is an amiably wimpish hero and Philip Pellew a moronic torturer. Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (081 534 0310). Underground: Stratford.

Today to Dec 29, Dec 31 to Jan 5:

2.15pm and 7.15pm. £4-£10. Until

Out of London Lyric Theatre, King Street, W6 (081 741 2311). Underground: Hammersmith. Today, 3pm, Dec • BRISTOL The Red Balloon 27-29, 3pm and 6.30pm. To Jan

STALK: Rodney Bewes plays a balloon. Old Vic, King Street (0272 250250). From today, Mon to Sat, 3pm and 7.30pm. Until Feb 9.

Anthony Clark's highly praised production of a Parisian boy befriended by his enchanted

## Toyshop Fortune Theatre

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TINA Williams has been touring her Pied Piper company to schools and arts centres since 1984 and clearly knows the needs of her young audience, since her play is making a return visit to the Fortune.

Her story about five toys who outwit their mean old shopkeeper may seem artiess to adults but the youngsters are kept enthralled by the bold posturing of Muscleman and by Legoman's trip to the Planet of Opposites, where the inhabitants are divided between the sad and the happy, the stilly and the sensible, and long to be a bit of both.

The message that everyone has a bit of the opposite inside them is one that no audience is too young to learn - even Muscleman starts to use his brain and discovers a way to avoid being left overpriced and unsold on the shelf. Would that all retailers could suffer the fate of selfish Mr Tweezledown. Russell St, WC2 (071 836 2238). Underground: Covent Garden. Dec. 26: 2pm: Dec 27 to 29: 11am and 2pm. £5.50-£8.50. 1hr 30mins.

### The Hare and the Tortoise Puppet Theatre Barge

MOORED in Little Venice, this red and yellow striped barge is easy to find. Inside, the ten rows slope up from the stage, giving the impression of sitting in a rollercoaster pausing on its glide home. Two puppeteers work the lion, fox, gnat and other creatures, intricately carved and jointed, in four loosely connected Aesop tales. The cat looks like no known breed and the tortoise moves oddly, but the mouse is delightful, Rudolph Walker's voice narrates a somewhat stilted storyline but the puppets have a delicate charm and an inner silence (yes, I know they are made of wood) that is the stuff of magic. For the youngest.

• Little Venice, Bromfield Road, W9 (071-249 6876) Daily 3pm Sun noon. £4. children £3.40. Underground: Warwick Ave. 1hr

• FARNHAM Treasure Island:

Deeds of derring do on the high

seas and up Spyglass Hill; with

Redgrave, Brightwells (0252)

music but no panto tricks.

715301). From today, Tue to Sat, two shows daily, various times (ring for details). Until Jan 19. • MANCHESTER The Weirdstone of Brisingamen: Gripping production of Alan Garner's

adventure set around and under Alderley Edge. Contact, Oxford Road (061-274 ' 4400). Tomorrow to 29th, Jan 2-5, ; 2pm and 7.30pm. Until Jan 19.

 NEWCASTLE Trouble Under Foot: An adventure underground presented by Northern Stage and Tyne/Wear Theatre in Education.

Booking essential. Gulbenkian Studio, Kings Walk, Haymarket (091-232 9974). From today, Mon-Sat, 11am and 2pm. Until Jan 12.

● SOUTHAMPTON Around the World in Eighty Days: Granville Saxton girdles the globe in Patrick Sandford's adaptation of Verne. Nuffield, University Road (0703 671771). Today to 29th, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Until Jan 19.

Friday: Children's outdoor events

### WORD-WATCHING Answers from page 18

PERSICO (a) An exotic alcoholic cordial prepared by macerating the kernels of peaches, apricots, etc. in spirit, from the Latin persicum a peach: "Powders and confects, cordials and persico." FOSSOR

church charged with the burial of the dead, and other sepulchral matters, from the Latin fodere, fossi, fossum to dig: "I saw it all answered the old fossor." PARAPENTING (b) The alleged sport of jumping from a high place with a special parachute, a portmantean word based on the French word pente a slope: "Up, up and away. John Barlow, of Coniston, a leading exponent, takes off in the Lake District, where parapenting is on the

(a) An important officer of th early Christian

KAKÖPYGE (b) Someone who has an ugly bottom, from the Greek kakos bad + page buttocks: "A dark-haired kakopyge with fat hands, an insipid smile, and the morals of a muskcat."



By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is the conclusion of Ins possion is the concusion of the game Larsen — Speelman. Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1985/87. How did Black mate immediately? Solution in tomorrow's Times. Top Grandmasters at this year's Hastings Premier include Speelman, Larsen, Chandler and Sax. (Information: 0424 442500) Solution to position (Dec 24): 1 ... Rb5+ 2 Ka1 Nb3+! 3 Kb1

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ANTITY DAILY MAIN CINEMAS CIRCON MAYFAIR Caron St. O71 455 8966 Christophe Walken, Rupert Everelt Named Richardson. Helen Mirren in THE CONFORM G. STRANGUES [18] Props at 2.00 (not Sun) 4.10, 6.20, 8.40

CURZON WEST (NO SARRESM'." W1 071 439 4905 Robert De Nivo, Ray Listin in Martin Scorece"s GOODFELLS (10) Props at 2.15. 0.10. 8.20.

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THE TIME

CHESTING

RADIO 3 RADIO 4 3.10 Vintage Years:

• CHOICE: When scheduled Midnight-7.05am Test Metch Special (MW only): Australia v England. Commentary from Melbourne on the first day of the second Test
6.55am Weather and News
Haadlines (FM only)
7.00 Christmas in Paris: Perotin

some months ago, today's recording of Torteller playing Strauss's Don Quixote with the RPO under Beacham was

just another tribute to the virtuoso cellist. It has now become a memorial occasio it was the matching of this

cellist, orchestra and conductor in 1947 (the year the recording was made) that launched the Frenchman's

international career. Judge for yourself how right The Times obituary writer was last week to speak of the unrivalled empathy with which Torteller impersonated Cervantes's sad

Le nozze oi rigero: Glyndebourne Chorus under David Angus: Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under Simon Rattle performs Mozant's opera to a Boretto by Lorenzo da Ponte after the play by Beaumerchais. Sung in Italian (simultaneous tenedrest with BRC2)

broadcast with BBC2)
8.00 Landscape with Classical
Ruins: The 18th-cantury poet
and satirist Alexander Pope
regarded himself as a friend of
virtue and foe to vice and folly.

In Carey Harrison's charmatic feature, set in a house Pope thinks he knows, he is surrounded by a world dominated by physical

Sonata at Com Ballades, Op. 10); Weber (Sonata in A flat, Op. 39); Mendelssohn (Variations serieuses); Beethoven (Sonata in F. minor, Op. 57, Appassionata), incl.

and county knight
4.00 Choral Evensong: Live from
Westminster Abbey
5.00 Le nozze di Figero:
Glyndebourne Chorus under

(Sederunt principes: Hillard Ensemble); M-A Charpentier (in nativitatem domine nost Jesu Christi canticum: Les Arts Florissants under William 7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert: Rossini
(String Sonata No 6 in D:
Berlin PO under von Karajan);
ci Capus (O Sole mio: ECO
under Edoardo Müller);

D. Scarlatti (Sonata in B minor, K 87: Vladimir Horowitz, pieno); Mozart (Concerto in C, K 299: Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Nevitle

in-the-Fields under Nevine
Marnner)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week:
Offenbach, Five Songs (Bruno
Laplante, baritone, Marc
Durand, piano); Geßé
parisienne, arr Manuel
Rosenthal (Pittsburgh SO under André Previn) 9.35 Midweek Choice with Susan Sharpe, Mozart (Exultate jubilate, K 165: Academy of Ancient Music under Ancient Music under Hogwood); Arrieu (Wind Quintet: Planders Wind Quintet); Protofiev (Peter and the Wolf, Op 67: SNO under Neene Jarvi, with Lina Protofiev, narrator); Bach, arr Hess (Jesu, Joy of Man's Destring: Myra Hess, piano); Heydn (Symphony No 104, London: Austro-Hungarian Haydn Orchestra under Adam Fischer); Saint-Saëns, arr Glennie (Introduction and Rondo capriocioso: New Priliharmonic Orchestra under Wordsworth, with Evelyn Glennie, percussion) commated by physical suitering, vicious safer and fantasy bordering on madness. With Sam Destor 9.00 Celebrity Recital: The pienist Affred Brendel plays Haydn (Sonata in G minor, H XVI 44): Brahms (Four Ballades, Op 10): Walter (Sonata in & fiert

Glarine, percussion)

11.20 Jessye Norman, with the BBC
Scottish Symphony Orchestra
under Gibson, plays Wagner
(Overture, Die Meistersinger,
Constitute United Streets, Efour erture, Die Meistereinger ofried Idyll); Strauss (Fou Last Songs); Strauss (Don Juan; Salome, Finel Scene), and 12.10pm Interval Reading

7.00pm News [.05 Smetana String Quartet performs Janacek (Quartet No 1, Kreutzer Sonata); Dvořák

Beethoven (Sonata in Finino Oo 57, Appassionata), inci 10.05 Interval Reading 11.00 Farnaby Brass Ensemble performs Giles Farnaby, arr Harnless (Four Farnaby Fancies); Gordon Jacob (Changing Moods); Alan Bullard (Essay) 11.30 Composers of the Week: Handel (r) 11.55-7.05am Test Match Special (MW only); Australia V (MW only): Australia v England. Commentary from Melbourne on the second day (Slong Quintet in E flat, Op 97) (r) 2.00 Record Review (r) of the second Test 12.30-12.35em News (FM only)

BBC 1

7.00 Chitdren's BBC, presented by Simon Parkin, Andi Peters, and Philippa Forrester begins with Wizbit. Magical adventures with Paul Daniels (r) 7.25 The Nightlingale. Christopher Plummer tells the story by Hans Christian Andersen (r) 7.50 Playdays, Includes a visit to St George's Hospital in Tooting, London (r) 8.10 The Island of Nevawuz. Animated tale set on an undiscovered island 9.00 The Man Called Firststone. Feature-length musical adventure 10.30 World Cup 90. Desmond Lynam introduces a chance to refive the action from the World Cup finals in Italy. Including England's nail-biting progress through to the semi-finals, Gazza blubbing, Ireland's plucky first appearance in the tournament and Scotland's dramatic departure.

reland's plucky first appearance in the tournament and Scottend's dramatic departure

11.30 Film: Are You Being Served? (1977). The staff of Grace Brothers department store take themselves off to the Costa Plonka for some Spanish sauce and double entendres with a distinctly British flavour. Feeble spin-off from the television series with the regular cast headed by Moliie Sugden, John Immen and Frank Thomton. Directed by Bob Kellett. (Coefax)

1.00 The Good Life: Sity But it's Fun. Easy-going comedy about alternative subsistence in suburbia. Cut off from the usual comforts of civilised life, Christmas does not go quite according to plan. With Richard Briers, Felicity Kendal, Penelope Keith and Paul Eddington (r)

plan. Willi Plantage
Eddington (r)

1.30 News with Chris Lowe. Weather

1.35 Film: The Poseldon Adventure (1972). Very popular but hugely overrated disaster movie with Gene Hackman as the minister who sees the light when an ocean liner is capsized by a glant tidal wave. He leads his small flock along the only feasible route of sees the light when an ocean liner is capsized by a giant tidal wave. He leads his small flock along the only feasible route of escape, through the bottom of the strip, which is now the top. Emest Borgnine. Shelley Winters and Red Buttons are among those trying to follow him. Directed by Ronald Neame. (Ceetax) 3.30 Disneytime. Clips from classic Disney films, including Fantasia. Lady and the Tramp, and Chip 'n' Dale 4.10 Jim'll Fix It for Christmas. Small children brave the smoke from Sir Jimmy Savile's cigars to seize the chance of making their dreams come true

4.55 Final Score. Sports news presented by Raiph Dellor 5.10 News with Chris Lowe. Weather 5.25 The Russ Abbot Christmas Show. Russ Abbot turns up as an

overweight Peter Pan teaching Wendy to fly and starring in the musical story of Hans Christian Andersen. (Ceefax)
6.05 Film: Back to the Future (1985). Spielberg's splendidly entertaining time travel adventure with Michael J. Fox whooshing to international standom as Marty McFly in Christopher Lloyd's time machine. Directed by Robert Zemeckis. (Ceefax)



French connection: Therese Liotard and John Nettles (8.00pm)

8.00 Bergerac Christmas Special: There for the Picking. As Jim Bergerac Christinas special: There to the Patang. As an Bergerac (John Nettles) has retired with girlfriend Danielle (Therese Liotard) to a more leisurely life in Provence, how is Charlie Hungerford (Terence Alexander) going to worm his way into the plot of this feature-length edition of the Jersey detective series? Jersey police discover a cache of grenades in a consignment of whisky. There seems to be a French connection, and Jim's old

colleagues request his assistance. A feature-length special, with a new series to follow early in 1991. (Ceefax) 9.40 Smith and Jones. Quirky comedy from Griff Rhys Jones and Mel Smith, striving valiantly to avoid all mention of Christmas. Instead they discuss Filipino wives, become involved with organised Welsh crime in the shape of the "Talia", and attend the funeral of a

DIY fanatic. (Ceefax)

10.10 News with Chris Lowe. (Ceefax) Weather

10.25 Film: Poltergelst II (1982). The Freeling family obey the fundamental rule of horror movies and do something no one in their right mind would even contemptate — they move back to the house where they were terrorised by supernatural forces in the original Pottergeist. The film follows the law of all sequels in failing to reproduce the success of the first, though seen in its own right it is fairly spooky. As before, the battle is on between the family, with the help of an Indian shaman and a psychic researcher, and the spirit world, for the persona of little Carol Anne. Directed by Brian Gibson, (Ceefax)

11.55 Toto - Live in Paris. American rock stars Toto captured in a rare live performance 12.50am Weather

8.00 English Towns. Alec Citton-Taylor explores Lawes, Sussex (r) 8.40 Film: Tarzan Finds a Son! (1939, b/w). The only survivor of a plane crash near Tarzan's home is a baby boy, crying out for warmth and crash near Tarzan's home is a baby boy, crying out for warmth and help. Tarzan and Jane decide to take him as their own and naise him according to the ways of the jungle. Johnny Weissmuller stars as the ape man and Maureen O'Sullivan as Jane in one of the better Tarzan movies. Directed by Richard Thorpe

10.00 Film: Summer Stock (1950), Engaging musical about a farmer's stage-struck stater who invites a theatre troupe to take over the barn for rehearsels. Starring Judy Garland, Gene Kelly and Phil Silvers. Directed by Charles Walters

11.55 How Are the Kids? The first of a series of six programmes examining child exploitation around the world

12.00 Greenclaws. Animated adventure for children (f)

12.15 The Unanswered Question: Leonard Bernstein at Harvard — Musical Phonology, His six Hervard University lectures are being

12.15 The Unanswered Question: Leonard Semstein at Harvard — Musical Phonology, His six Hervard University lectures are being repeated as a tribute to the celebrated conductor, composer and plantst Leonard Bernstein, who died in October. This one includes a complete performance of Mozart's Symptony No 40. (r)
2.00 The Transformers: The Butterflies of Zagorsk. This first of three programmes on the art of inspired teaching tells the story of children studying at the deaf-blind school in Zagorsk, near Moscow. Though these children never stop "speaking", the only sound to be heard is that of fluttering fingers, hence the parallel with butterflies. (Caefax)

with butterflies. (Cestax)
Beethoven Symphonies. Roger Norrington conducts the London
Classical Players' performance of Beethoven's Symphony No 4 in 8 Fiet 9.35 Laurel and Hardy in Bacon Grabbers (1929, b/w).

3.35 Laurel and Hardy in Bacon Grabbers (1829, b/w).
3.55 Beethoven Symphonies. The London Classical Players, conducted by David Norrington, perform on original instruments, which emphasise the sense of challenge to be found in Beethoven's Symphony No 5 in C Minor, Op 67
4.30 Cricket: Second Test. Highlights from the first day of the second Test between Australia and England in Melbourne
5.00 Le Nozze di Figero. Simon Ratifle conducts the Glyndebourne production of Mozart's Le Nozzi di Figero. This beautiful score is performed on period instruments but the Challenter of the Area of

percontrol of Mozait s 1.8 Nozai thragato. This obscious solve is performed on period instruments by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in the Festival Opera production. The tale spins a web of intrigue, double-standards and infidelity, all of which take place when Figaro, Count Almaviva's valet, is due to marry the Countess's maid Susanna

8.00 Film: Manon des Sources (1986). Concluding the saga of Jean de Elevito the standards described the standards of the saga of Jean de

8.00 Film: Manon des Sources (1965). Concluding the sage of Jean de Florette, this sturning drama focuses on the feuding over water supplies in rural France during the Twentles. In French with English subtities. Directed by Claude Berri 9.50 A Life in Plecas: Partridge in a Pear Tree. Peter Cook as Sir Arthur Streeb-Greebling in a series of comic interviews with Ludovic Kennedy. Tonight's programme sees him choosing 12 gifts with a difference for the 12 days of Christmas



Memories of Clydeside: Tom Watson as Hughle (9.55pm)

9.55 The Ship.

• CHOICE: Bit Bryden's epic tribute to shipbuilding on the Clyde. performed in a converted engine shed as part of Glasgow's European City of Culture celebration, makes an effective translation to the small screen. The fluid structure of the piece, in which performers are brought together with the audience, lends itself to television presentation and viewers will have a more privileged view than many of those at the performance. Although the subject is big, many of show's scenes are small and intimate, involving only a few characters, and this, too, works to television's advantage. The Ship offers a tapestry rather than a narrative, weaving together various strands which make up the community and its culture. Work, and the pride and insecurity that goes with it, is only part of a landscape that takes in the pub, the wash day and the dance hall and is socially split between Catholics and

11.35 Film: Suspicion (1941, b/w). Joan Fontaine puts in a perfect Oscar-winning performance in Alfred Hitchcock's nerve-recking thriller. A placid, insipid girt marries a handsome playboy (Cary Grant). She soon finds her happiness slowly drained from her as she discovers that her apparently charming husband is not quite what he seems. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. (Ceefax) 1.10am Weather

The state of the s

8.00 TV-am 9.25 Christmas Duckula 9.50 T-Bag's Christmas Ding-Dong staming Glenda Jackson and Georgina Hale 10.20 Daffy Duck (r) 10.35 Film: Candieshoe (1977) starting David Niven, Leo McKern, Jodie 10.35 Film: Candieshole (1977) starring David Niven, Leo McKern, Jodie Foster and Helen Hayes. Harry Bundage, an English con artist, attampts to pass off 14-year-old tomboy, Casey Brown, as an heiress. Niven tans will enjoy his performance as the butler but there is tittle else to get excited about. Directed by Norman Tokar 12.25 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather. 12.30 Film: Return to Oz (1985) starring Piper Laurie, Nicol Williamson and Jean Marsh. Six months after her first adventure in the fantasy tand, Dorothy is suffering from nightmares, which she takes to mean that her friends there are in trouble, and so she returns to do battle once again with the evil forces that threaten Oz's

heart was treat much severe are in trouble, and so she returns to do battle once again with the evil forces that threaten Oz's existence. Directed by Walter Murch

2.30 Beatrix Potter: The Tale of Little Pig Robinson. Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, Timothy Spall and Thora Hird star in a delightful dramatisation of the Beatrix Potter story



A fetching herokne: Polly Walker as Lorna Doone (3.30pm)

3.30 Film: Lorna Doone (1990).

© CHOICE: Switting mists and galloping horses greet a new version of R.D. Blackmore's classic romance which is strongly enough cast to be able to use players of the quality of Robert ephens and Kenneth Haigh in cameo roles. The excellent Billie Whitelaw is rather more prominent and Sean Bean's Carver Doone is a dashingly handsome villain. So much so that Clive Owen's John Ridd is a mite upstaged, but Polly Walker is a fetching Loma. Matthew Jacobs's screenplay plays down the 17th century Matthew decors a screenpay plays down the 17th communy political background and represents the Ridd-Doone conflict as a feud in a Hollywood western, complete with climactic shoot-out. Bleak and wintry locations emphasise the darker aspects of the story but younger viewers will be reassured by a denouement in which the forces of good are clearly seem to triumph. The mixture of accents, with mummerset alongside hints of Scottish and Irish, can be a little isring. (Cracle)

can be a little jaming. (Oracle)

5.15 News with Nicholas Owen. Sport and weather

5.30 The Krypton Factor Special. Television's toughest quiz gets the festive treatment with celebrities from The Bill. Emmerdale, Coronation Street and Brookside taking part. (Oracle)

6.00 Christman Chusto Missupposite taking part.

6.00 Christmas Cluedo. Viewers get the chance to play detective in this television version of the popular board game
6.45 This is Your Life. An extended version of the show in which Michael Aspel surprises another famous face in an edition that will bring back memories of hilanous Christmases of days gone by 7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle)

8.00 Film: Dirty Dancing (1987) starring Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. Superficial, but highly entertaining film, that makes good use of some raunchy dance numbers and scooped an Oscar for the song "The Time of My Life". Directed by Emile Ardolino. (Oracle) 9.50 The Bill: Safe As Houses. Supergrass Lennie Powell laps up the comfort of police protection from the Sun Hill officers and decides to offer them information. (Oracle)

10.20 News with Nicholes Owen.Weather 10.30 Film: Police Academy 2 — Their First Assignment (1985) starring Steve Guttenberg, Bubba Smith and Colleen Camp. More adventures of the trainee cops, inare slepstick comedy that was even worse than the first one but proved extremely popular at the box office. Directed by Jerry Paris. (Oracle)

12.10am Film: The Return of the Seven (1966) starring Yul Brynner,
Robert Fuller and Warren Oates. Six more gun fighters are

recruited by Yul Brynner and storm a Mexican town to set free an imprisoned friend. Directed by Burt Kennedy 2.00 Film: Robbery under Arms (1985) starring Sam Neil, Christopher Cummins and Steven Vidler. Two brothers are ordered to meet their father, an Englishman transported to New South Wales after being convicted of armed robbery. While there, they encounter his leader, notorious Captain Starlight, the bushranger. Directed by Ken Hannam and Donald Crombie

4.00 America's Top Ten. A look at the top ten acts of the Sixties 4.30 Film: The Pickwick Papers (1985), Feature length cartoon version of the Dickens classic directed by Warwick Gilbert 5.55 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman, Ends at 6.00

10.00 Carry On Up the Khyber (1988): The Carry On team are at the north-west frontier curing the time of the British Rej. 12.00 The Witzerd of Cz. (1989): Judy Gestend follows the yellow brick road. 2.00pm The Purple People Eater (1988): A number sign has a complexit for Efficies rock.

oursie ellen has a genchant for Fifties rock 4.00 Arthur 2 on the Rocks (1988): Sterring

love with his prey, Madeleine Stowe 10.00 Dead-Bang (1989): A Los Angeles

10.00 Deac-tearing (1999): A Los Angues desective (Don Johnson) investigates the murcler of a policeman 11.45 Mad Max. (1979): Fature cop Max. (Mel Gibson) vows revenge when his wife and child are murclered by a gang of bitars 1.30em Cutting Class (1989): A student returns to school after a spell in a mental seakers and is accused of murdler.

esylum and is accused of murder 4.00 Back to School (1986): A millionaire

Vin the Astra Satellite.
 7.30em Basebell 8.30 Eurobics 9.00 Judo 9.30 Ascent of the Matterhom: Documentary 11.00 Equestrianism 12.00 Eurobea 12.30pm 1990 Tennis Classes 2.30 1990 Tennis Classes 4.30 Surling 5.00 ica Sketting 8.30 Eurosport News 7.00 Tens World Sport 8.00 Railying 9.00 Boxing 10.00 Cross Country Skiing 11.00 Eurosport News 11.30 Bodybuilding

Vis the Astra setelifia.
 7.00am Siding 8.00 los Hockey 10.00 Motor News 10.30 Hippodrome 11.00 ke Hockey 1.00pm Tenpin Bowing 1.30 Live Heartes Basketball Week 4.00 High Five 4.30 World Superbite Championships 5.00 World Cup

Basketoall Week 4.00 high 1710 Morid Cup Figure Skating 6.00 The Rothman's Cente-nary Snooker Challenge 8.00 Heartern Basketbell Week 10.30 Ice Hockey

Via the Astra satellite.
 8.00am Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

Vie the Astra satellite.
 10.00sm Everyday Workout 10.30 Search for Tomorow 10.55 Coffee Break 11.00

EUROSPORT

SCREENSPORT

LIFESTYLE

CHANNEL 4 Salter Co

6.00 Bobby Jones Gospel. The best of American gospel music from Nashville, Termessee (r) 6.30 The Art of Landscape. Scenes of the natural world set to soothing music 7.00 All's Special Day. Magician Ali Bongo entertains (r) 7.30 Kaboodle. Two stories, one about a horse-mad little girl who ends up in an unusual place, the other about a little boy who cannot get rid of his hiccups

8.00 The Christmas Tree Train. Carloon (r) 8.25 Ric. Carloon 8.30
The Turkey Caper
9.00 Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line 9.15 Countdown Masters
9.25 Sesame Street. Educational fun for pre-school children 10.25
Batman and Robin (b/w). Episode three

Batman and Hobin (b/w). Episode infee

10.50 Ibiza — A Short Film About Chilling, Ibiza has one of the livelest club scenes in Europe. This film looks at the time when 500 British reveilers went to libiza for the start of the season, enjoying wild party nights, and "chilling" during the daytime (r)

11.30 Tony Jacklin's Pro-Celebrity Golf Challenge. New series with professional golfers Sam Torrance and Ronan Rafferty teaming up with sportsmen and aptertainers for the Whyte & Markey Scotch.

with sportsmen and entertainers for the Whyte & Mackay Scotch Trophy. From Le Touquet snooker ace Dennis Taylor partners Torrance against Ratterty and entertainer Bruce Forsyth

12.35 Channel Racing from Kempton Park. Live coverage of the 12.45, 1.15, 1.45, 2.20 (King George VI Rank Chase) and 2.50 races 3.10 Animations. Western from Hungary and Petronella from the United

3.30 Film: International House (1933, b/w). Hit-and-miss WC Fields comedy in which a mixed bunch of travellers find themselves quarantined in a Shanghai hotel with an eccentric inventor who is perfecting his television apparatus. Starry cast includes George Skirrs, Gracie Allen and Bela Lugosi, Directed by Edward Sutherland

4.50 News summary and weather 4.55 Faerie Tale Theatre: The Princess Who Had Never Laughed. Sterring Ellen Barkin, Howie Mandell and Howard Hesseman. (Teletext)
The Further Adventures of Billy the Fish

6.00 The Wonder Years. American comedy about a young boy growing up in the Sixties (r)
 6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. The guests are actor Jeff Goldblum

and comedian Pete McCarthy 7.00 Pater Pablo: A portrait of Canadian Fr Harvey Steele who is venerated by millions of Latin Americans who know him as "Padre Pablo". The chain-smoking, whisky-drinking Roman Catholic firebrand has made enemies - and not just because of his unconventional lifestyle. In the Dominican Republic and Panama he has helped working people to establish credit unions and marketing cooperatives, in so doing helped to give the poor more power over their economic future. (Teletext)

8.00 Brookside. Down-to-earth Liverpool soap. (Teletext)
8.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Celebrities turn out to pay their respects to one of America's most popular chat show hosts



Portrait of a composer under stress: Tchelkovsky (9.25pm)

9.25 Tchaikovsky - Fate.

● CHOICE: Christopher Nupen concludes his "musical biography" by picking up the story at the composition of the Fourth Symphony in 1878 and taking it through to the composer's death 15 years later. As in his earlier film, *Tchaikovsky's Women*, Nupen's approach is unpretentious and accessible and largely allows the subject to speak for himself through his letters and his music, with only a light critical gloss. Played by the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Vladimir Ashkenazy, the music is smoothly integrated into the narrative and never used simply to fill it out. Still photographs indicate how quickly Tchelkovsky aged and the letters reveal a continual fear of creative decline. The main works of his later period, the three final symphonies and Manfred, demonstrate that, on the contrary, his creative powers were maintained to the end 1.00 Film: Requiem for Dominic (1990). Drama-documentary about

Dominic Parashchiv, a childhood friend of director Robert Domhelm, who was accused of being a member of Ceausescu's ... secret police and murdered 12.40am Dancedaze recorded at the Brixton Academy

1.40 The Other Side of Gerry Sadowitz. Brusque comedian Gerry Sadowitz concludes his alternative guide to the art of the close-up card magician. Ends at 1.55

### ITV VARIATIONS

CENTRAL As Landon except: 2.00am Film: Screem of the Wolf 3.20 Profile 3.30-4.00 CinemAttrac-

Starts: 6.00pm Early Morning 9.25 Sessme Street 10.25 The Adventures of Betman and Robin 10.50 Fearle Tale Theatre: Jack and Tale Starte Tale Theatre: Jack and Y Cwm 12.15 Slot Meithon 12.35 Channel 4 Y Cwm 12.15 Siot Meithrer 12.35 Channel 4
Recorp from Kempton Park 3.10 Film: it's A
Gett' 4.30 Stot 23 5.20 Brookside 5.50
Newyddion 6.00 Partho'r Wyl 7.45 Ffinlandiall 8.20 Eirien 9.00 Dai A' Y Piste 10.00 Nigel
Kennedy Plays Bruch 10.45 Biby the Fish
11.00 Requiem For Dominic 12.40 Denocdaze 9.40 The Other Side of Jerry Sadowicz
1.55 Diwedd

RTE 1 RITE 1
Starts: 9.00am The Fluppy Dogs 9.50
Milion Dollar Duck 11.20 Vincent and Ma
1.00 News 1.05 Dianey Cartoon 1.10 Film:
Denny — Champion of the World 2.55;
Fidder on the Roof 6.00 The Angelus 6.01
News 6.15 Dianey Cartoon 8.25 No 1
Christmas Special 7.00 Apples in Winter
8.00 Faces and Piaces 9.00 News 9.15 The
Liliac Bus 10.40 Film: Raising Arizona
12.15am News 12.25 Close



Clock and dagger: Toych Willcox as Miss Scarlett (left) and Kete O'Mare as Mrs Peecock (ITV, 8.00pm)

(s) Stereo on FM 5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing, Weather 6.10 Proluce 6.50 Prayer for the

7-90 (a) 7-20 Prayer for the Day (a) 7.00 News 7.10 Cold Turkey, Incl 8.00 News, 8.55, 7.55 Westher 8.43 William and the Princess Goldlocks,

9.00 News 9.05 No Milk Today, the Street Has Gone Away: The residents of Herbert Street in Treherbert prepare for their twentieth

Spain (r) 9,35 Word Detectives:

nual holiday together in

Times's resident etymologist.

Philip Howard, is not consulted by Eric Robson as he mingles with the lexicographers, this newspaper provides vital source material. There's a

source material. There's a computer which sits The Times every week for new words. Sacily, the only two quoted this moming are both iterals: akespeare and admirat. Compilers of new dictionaries don't turn a hair at microwaveable but microwaveable; will have to wait, unlike certain toodstuffs that achieve instant.

west, unlike certain toodstuffs that achieve instant acceptance the moment they appear on the supermarket shelves; Smash of the Day: I'm Sony I'll Read That Again. The first of four clessic comedies from the archives (r)

10.30 Morning Story: Life Without George, by Lynne Truss

10.45 Daily Service (s)

11.00 News; Far from the Madding Crowd: The Seeds of Love, The third of a six-part dramatisation of Thomas Hardy's novel (s)

dramatisation of i Hardy's novel (s)

Hardy's novel (s)
12.00 News; Something to
Celebrate: Part 3: A personal
journey from Greenham to
Cambridge
12.25pm Families and How to
Survive Them: John Cleese
and psychiatrist Dr Robin
Skyrmer discuss how
relationships are formed,
survived and developed (3 or

sustained and developed (3 of

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/265m;1089kHz/275m;FM-97,6-99.8. Radio 2: RA-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m;FM-92,4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Service: MW-648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/251m; FM 97.3. Capitat: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/205m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.9.

Philip Howard, is not

### SKY ONE

 Win the Astra and Marco Polo satellites.
 6.00am Cricket: The Ashes Tour. England v
 Australia in the second Test 7.00 Cricket
 Hightights 7.30 The DJ Kat Show 8.40 Mrs
 Pepperport, followed by Pleyahout 8.10
 Jackpot 9.30 Here's Lucy 10.00 it's Your
 Round 10.30 The Young Doctors 11.00 The
 Roid and the Resenting 11.20 The Young and Bold and the Beautiful 11-30 The Young and the Restless 12-30pm Sale of the Century 1.00 True Confessions 1.30 Another World 2.15 Lowing 2.45 Wide of the Week 3.15 Bewitzhed 3.45 The DJ Kat Show, Ind Teenage Mutant Hiero Turtles 5.00 Lost in Space 6.00 Femily Ties 6.30 Sets of the Century 7.00 Love at First Sight 7.30 The Secret Video Show 8.00 Alien Restlem 9.00 Monthless 10.95 Love at First Sight 7.30 The Monthless 10.95 Love at First Sight 7.30 The Secret Video Show 8.00 Alien Restlem 9.00 Monthless 10.95 Love at First Sight 7.10 The Moonlighting 10.30 Love at First Sight 11.00 Cricket Highlights 12.00 Cricket: The Ashes Tour. England v Australia in the second Test

**SKY NEWS** 

• Via the Astra setslite. Via the Astra satellite.

Navet on the hour.

5.00am Surrise 6.30 Beyond 2000 9.00 Dayline 9.20 Nevetine 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.30 Review 90 — The Royals 1.30pm NBC Today, Part One 2.30 NBC Today 3.30 Review 90 — The Royals 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Live at Five 8.30 Nevesine 7.30 International Business Report 8.30 Review 90 — The Royals 10.30 Newsine 11.30 NBC News 12.30 Review 90 — The Royals 10.30 NBC News 2.30 Review 90 — The Royals 3.30 Beyond 2000 4.30 Newsine 5.30 Newsine 1

SKY NEWS Vis the Marco Polo satellite.

1.00 News 1.10 News Quiz of the Year (s) (r)

1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping 2.00 News; With Great Pleasure: The environmentalist Jonathor

The environmentalist Jonatho
Pornitt selects his favourite
poetry and prose (s)
3.00 News; Toad of Toad Hell: A
charmatication of Kenneth

dramatisation of Kenneth Grahame's The Wind in the

Graname's The Wind in the Williams (r)
4.30 Ad Lib: Robert Robinson taller to a group of jockeys, bookles and punters in Belfast (r)
5.00 News
5.05 Singin' in the Rein: The start of one of MGM's most popule musicals, including Gene Kally, recall memories of life on the set (e) 5.60 Stinging 1

on the set (s) 5.50 Shipping Forecast and 5.55 Weather 6.00 Sk O'Clock News 6.15 The Village: Series focussing on the life of a small rural

on the life of a small rural community
6.30 Counterpoint (s) (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Today's the Day. The Two Little Pigs. Reporters Nell Walker and David Clayton attand Warwickshire's Rare Breeds Annual Show (r)
7.45 Concarto: The guitarist John Williams talks about his diverse career (s) (r)
8.45 Tuning in (s) (r)
9.15 Katerdoscope: Behind the scenes at the Globe Theatre before a performance of Alan

before a performance of Alan Ayckbourn's Man of the

story of an ugly sister and a wicked stepmother

Ayckboum's Man of the Moment (s) (r) 9.45 Even Grimmer Tales: Beauty and Pock Face. A Chinese

10.00 News 10.05 The Three-Minute Medium: Robert Sandall looks at the changing nature of the pop industry over the past 30

industry over the past 30 years (s)

10.45 A Book At Bedtime: In My Wildest Dreams, by Lessie Thomas (10 of 12) (a) (r)

11.00 Looking Forward to the Prest: Robert Booth takes a light-hearted view of history (s) (r)

11.30 The Tingle Factor: David Puttnam talks to Robin Ray about the music that sends a shiver up his spine (s) (r)

shiver up his spine (a) (r) 12.00-12.30em News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33-12.43 Shipping Forecast

Wis the Marco Polo satellite.
News on the hour.
News on the hour.
Solves on the hour of the Royals 1.30 Parts Dances Daghilev: The Paris Opera Ballet in performance 3.00 Berinz — Symphonie Fantastique 4.30 Berinz — Symphonie Fantastique 4.30 Berinz — Symphonie Fantastique 4.30 Berinz — Symphonie 11.30 Part One 10.30 La Gioconda, Part Two 11.30 Part One 10.30 La Gioconda, Part Two 11.30 Part Newster 11.30 Part Newster 12.30 Part Newster 12.3

SKY MOVIES

Vis the Astra satellits.
 6.00em Showceas
 8.00 The Water Bables (1978): An adaptation of Charles Kingsley's novel

The Breakfast Show 10.00 Smon Bates with dedications from members of the Forces 12.30pm Gary Davies 4.00 Mark Goodes 7.30 The Christmas Concerts: Knebworth 90 10.30 Victor Lewis Smith 11.00-2.00em Bob Hards

FM Sterec. 4.00am Steve Medden 7.00 Floger Royle 2.00 Kattle Boyle 11.00 Determined Comedy Double Bilt: The Men from the Ministry, and st 1.30 The Nevy Lark 2.00 A Merry Christman from Manchester 3.00 Best of "A House in a Garden" 5.00 Gerald Harper: Soung Day Selection 7.00 Chris Stuart and Friends 7.30 A Traditional Yorkshire Christman 6.00 The Sweetness of a Man of Strings: The Yethes calebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Henty (r) 9.00 Nigel Ogden: The Organist Entertains 9.30 The Golden Years 10.00 Ken Bruce 12.05am Henry Mancini 1.00-4.00am Bill Rennells with Night Field

Roman Ball Rennells with Night Fide

8.00am World Service: Newscleek 6.30 News;
Meridian Feeture 7.00 News; Boxong Day and
Meridian Feeture 7.00 News; Boxong Day and
Meridian Feeture 7.00 No. 830 News 9.05 Take
Five 10.25 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 10.40 Take Five 11.00 Sportscalt: Phone-in quiz. Tel: 0345 909 683
12.00 Sport on 5 with John Inverdals. Football: Barclays League; Criziet: Australia v England
The first day of the second Test in Melbourne; Racing from Kempton Parts: 2.20 King George
VI Rank Steeple Chase 6.30 Review of the Sporting Year (r) 6.30 Tim Rice's Christmas Past;
Part two 7.00 Sport; Carly Simon's Christmas Takes for Children 7.15 Revolting Phymas:
Past two 7.00 Sport; Carly Simon's Christmas Takes for Children 7.15 Revolting Phymas:
Past (a) 8.00 Afto-Pop 8.00 Nightbest 9.30 Earshot, 10.00, 11.00 Sport 11.10 World Service
17.38-12.05am Sport

11.58-12.05em Sport

11.58-12.05em Sport

All times in GMT. 6.00em German Features
5.35 News in German, Headines in English and
5.35 News in German, Headines in English and
5.35 News in German, Headines in English and
5.36 Westher and Travel News 8.00 News 2.00 News 2.00 News 8.00 News Assignment 3.00 News 3.09 News About Smain 3.13 116 Years News About Smain 3.13 116 Years News Add Press Review in German

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TV CHOICE PETER WAYMARK/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

We're Cooking Now 11.35 The Edge of Night 12.00 Saby Jessy Rapheel 12.50pm What's New 1.00 Great American Gameshows 2.10 Divorce Court 2.30 in Search of Wildlife 4.05 Gheat American Gameshows 5.20 Tee Break 6.30 WKRP in Cincinnati 6.00 The Selt-e-Vision Shopping Channel 8.00 JSTV 10.00 The Selt-e-Vision Shopping Channel 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

Duckey Moore
8.00 The Lady and the Highwayman
(1988): Sweshbucking romance set during
the era of the Roundheeds and the Cavaliers THE MOVIE CHANNEL Via the Marco Polo satellits. stars as the cop on the watch who falls in gate a series of ghetto nobberies love with his prey, Madelaine Stowe 1,25pm The Movie Show 1.25pm The Movie Show 2.00 The Tender Trap (1955): Romantic musical comedy starring Frank Sinetra 4.06 Walk Like a Man (1967): After being raised by wolves, Howie Mandel must re-

4.06 Walk Like a Marx (1997): After being raised by wolves, Howe blandel must re-enter cylisation
5.45 The Wolves of Willoughby Chase (1989): Stephanie Beachem state as an evil governess in 19th-century England
8.00 A Cry in the Dark (1989): Maryl Streep

stars in this dramatic

10.10 Midnight Run (1983): Robert De Niro becomes swowed with the maris, the FBI and a rivel bounty hunter 12.30 am Brighton Beach Memoirs (1986): Comedy about a Jawlah boy (Blythe Danner), with nothing on his mind but sex, beselvall and dreams of becoming a writer 2.25 Dragnet (1987): An effectionate eatire on the Fifties series. Ends at 4.10

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

 Via the Marco Polo satellite. Race 3.00 Rugby Leegue: St Helens v Wigen, Ive 5.00 Supercross 6.00 Sports-deak 6.30 American Wresting 7.30 Sportsdask 8.00 The Main Event: Scottish Sportsdark 10.30 Motorsport Review 11.30 Racing Today 12.00 Sportsdark 10.30 Motorsport Review 11.30 Racing Today 12.00 Sportsdark 12.30am Scottah Football

THE POWER STATION ■ Via the Marco Polo satelite.

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£2 a week will buy this grandmother the health and happiness she deserves



For Maura Pangilinan from the Philippines. picking rice in the paddy fields was her only source of income until failing health stopped her from working.

Her two children were too poor to support her, and Maura became terrified of her future. Now, thanks to a family from the UK who sponsor her, Maura can face the future without

For just £2 a week they provide Maura with the basic essentials of life such as food and medicine. What's more, the same money also supports community projects which help other elderly people in need.

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Please help to care for an elderly person like Maura today. Post the coupon to: Adopt a Granny, Room

905714, Help the Aged, FREEPOST, London, EC1B 1BD. Yes, please tell me more about sponsoring a gran or grandad. (Hr/Mrs/Miss/Ms)

Address Postcode Telephone Send to: Cindy Salas-Ortiz. Help the Aged Adopt a Granny, Room 905714 . Help the Aged, FREEPOST. London, EC1B 1BD Reg. Carrity No. 272766

**Adopt a Granny** 

## Schools may be allowed to train most of own teachers

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

PLANS to allow schools to train most of their own teachers are now being considered by the government, which believes that the academic standards of many student teachers, and the training

they receive, is too low. Michael Fallon, the junior schools minister, said: "We have to restore public confidence in the teacher-training system. Training in no other profession is as important to the public and over the past few months there has been growing concern."

The government is in favour of school training that would be paid for by transferring money from the training colleges, which were not filling all their student places, be said. Primary training places are oversubscribed, but in September there were an estimated 1,500 vacancies for secondary school

Schools that did train their own teachers would be able to plan ahead. If they knew two science teachers would be retiring in two years' time, for example, they could begin training their replacements," Mr Fallon said.

"The changes will be school driven and not imposed on them. If they want to bid for a greater say in training they should be free to do so. It is clearly not going to work in the smaller primary schools but it should be available for the big secondary schools if they want it."

The proposals would extend the articled and licensed teacher schemes introduced by the gov-ernment. "We have already broken the monopoly of the teacher training colleges, and that is the key to change." Mr Fallon said.

In September, there were 400 articled teachers, graduates who went straight into schools for two years of training, and 327 licensed teachers: trainees aged more than 26 with at least two years' higher education. About 12,500 newly trained teachers enter the classroom each year.

Mr Fallon is also concerned at the academic quality of some of the students entering teacher training for the bachelor of education degree. Many colleges allow students to enter with only two grade C passes at A-level.

The level has not changed for the past ten years and what is worrying is that it is still too low," he said. "Teacher training is easier to get into than almost any other area of higher education and it

New criteria for course standards have been set for the Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (Cate) and Mr Fallon said he was still concerned that they would not be sufficiently rigorous. The government is also concerned that the academic standard of teacher training has been allowed to drop.

Courses, whether in specialist colleges, polytechnics or university departments, have to be initially approved by the accreditation council and then checked by universities, some of which, Mr Fallon said, are failing to maintain standards. He said he was not convinced that all universities were properly policing these

A critical independent report in 1985 said that the universities expected less of colleges than they did of themselves, relied on informal methods, and that standards varied too much. People checking the courses were being asked to do too much and had insufficient knowledge of the subiect they were inspecting.

A code of practice was introduced by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, but it is not followed by every university. Mr Fallon said: "We will now check more thoroughly whether the academic standards of these courses are what they set out



Entrance for an exit: Dr Robert Runcie going into Canterbury Cathedral yesterday to take his last Christmas service before he retires as archbishop Dr Runcie's message, page 4

## Gorbachev hits snag in his bid for greater authority

Continued from page 1

the biggest in the Soviet Union, would resist sweeping new powers for Mr Gorbachev. "I will vote against because there is enough power in the hands of one man, even too much," he told journalists in the lobby of the Kremlin Hall of Congresses.

The debate on constitutional changes comes after demands by several deputies for Mr Gorbachev to take firm action to restore order in the face of increasing disregard for the central government's authority. Presidential decrees have been flouted by regions and republics demanding greater sovereignty, and deputies have accused Mr Gorbachev of indecision in tackling economic problems and ending inter-ethnic disputes.

proved yesterday, Gorbachev will have ultimate power, but there will be a greater role for the

group, which comprises representatives of all republics, in coordinating decisions.

Mr Gorbachev already has the authority to issue decrees on virtually every aspect of Soviet life, but the constitutional amendments will give him an unprecedented legal basis for his

His authority over the republics will also be largely conditioned by the outcome of a debate on a new union treaty. allowing greater republican autonomy in a renewed Soviet federation. On Monday, Mr Gorbachev pushed through two resolutions providing for nationwide referendums to be held on the principle of the Soviet Union remaining a single state and on the contentious subject of private

He also managed to gain overwhelming backing from the congress for the concept of the new union treaty, which must be

Baltic republics, seeking independence, have refused to take part in talks on the treaty and other republics have strong

Yesterday was the eighth day of a Congress that has seen Eduard Shevardnadze's dramatic resignation as foreign minister last week, and a hardline speech by the KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov accusing foreign agents of plotting against the

Mr Gorbachev had wanted Mr Shevardnadze to be his vicepresident, but the former foreign minister has said he would not accept the job if it were offered. Efforts continue, however, to find him a role in the government. "Shevardnadze is a man do a lot." Mr Gorbachev told reporters yesterday. "The question of where and how will continue to be discussed."

## **Exiled king** returns to Romania

From Reuter

their daughters. Princess Sophie.

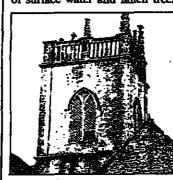
King Michael, aged 69, travelling on a Danish passport, was going to Curtea de Arges, where members of his family are buried. "This is a private visit," said

Princess Margareta, his eldest daughter, who arrived here last week. "My father thought it would have been wrong to come back for the anniversary of last year's events. It would have given a political connotation to his visit.

Revolution's "scapegoat", page 7 Leading article, page 9

IN BUCHAREST THE exiled King Michael of Romania returned to his home-land yesterday after 43 years in the West and one year after the revolution which overthrew the Ceausescu regime. He arrived at Bucharest international airport in a private aircraft with his wife, the former Queen Ana, and one of

will be hot or cold."



## Blackouts after storms put paid to festive lunches

GALES and heavy rain left thousands of people without electricity yesterday and four people were injured when a church pinnacle collapsed in high winds onto a

congregation in Wiltshire.
The accident happened after the first hymn during the Christmas day morning service at St Mi-chael's and All Saints' Church in Kington St Michael, near Chippenham, Wiltshire. Four people were taken to Chippenham district hospital with minor injuries and a lump of masonry missed the priest by inches.

The morning Christmas service on independent television was interrupted when the London Weather Centre issued a severe weather alert after winds reached 106 mph on the Severn Bridge and

80 mph in the south.

People in the Vale of Evesham. Worcestershire, who lost their electricity supply in the blizzards two weeks ago were among the thousands cut off yesterday in Kent, Hampshire, Staffordshire, the West Country and Yorkshire. At South Littleton, near Evesham, children had to open their Christ-

mas presents by candlelight.
One villager said: "We struggled through the blizzard without power for two days - now this has to happen. We are all-electric. We don't know when we shall get Christmas dinner or whether it

High winds, reaching storm force ten, and driving rain swept over the West Country yesterday, leaving a trail of destruction. Roofs were blown off more than six houses in Devon and firemen with heat-seeking equipment fought to free an elderly couple trapped under a pile of bricks in their house when a strong wind ripped their roof. Cedric and Muriel Brooks, of Stoke Canon in Devon, were in bed when part of their roof was whipped up and tossed 70ft down the road.

Teams of emergency workers braved gale-force winds in Cornwall as high winds and driving rain swept over the county, brought down power lines and blacked out up to 300 people. Some roads in Devon lay under seven inches of rain as motorists were advised not to travel because of surface water and fallen trees.



The church tower after it lost its left pinnacle

Winds gusting up to 70mph flattened trees ripped away roofs and brought an empty house crashing down in Weymouth. Members of the Royal Family

were hit by a storm, including winds gusting at 55 mph, when they attended the Christmas day service at Sandringham parish church. The River Usk breached its

banks at Brecon, Powys, after torrential overnight rain in the mountains higher up stream. A 100-yard stretch of the town's promenade was under water. Flights in and out of Heathrow continued unaffected despite

Passengers faced bumpy takeoffs and landings. The A76 Dumfries to Kilmar. nock in Scotland was closed for about an hour by flood waters at New Cumnock, Ayrshire. The River Nith also burst its banks at

high tide in Whitesands.

winds of more than 30 knots:

Photographs, page 3

## Helicopter in Atlantic rescue

Continued from page 1

injured man to Limerick. Earlier, with a different crew, it winched four men from a chemical tanker aground near Milford Haven,

The captain and eight other crew remained on board to try and save the 14,000 ton Swedish vessel Thuntank 9 which was in ballast Coastguards and the remaining crew were secured the ship to a buoy with the aid of two tugs and a lifeboat to prevent further pound-

ing from the Force nine gale. A spokesman for Milford Haven coastguard said: "There is not much chance of getting it back to sea with the winds blowing it into the shore. Our main task is to try and avoid any further damage."

Before setting off across the Atlantic Sergeant Stevens said: "Christmas lunch will be a little later than usual this year. This is the first time in three years that we have actually been called out on Christma Day, and then we get two rescues."

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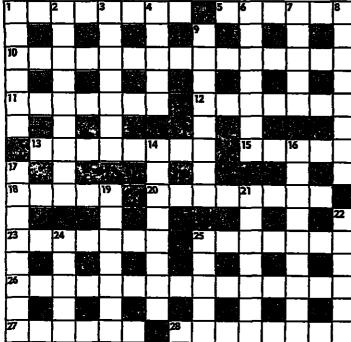
իր<sub>ևան</sub>ը MULLILERS :-

Prefix are made :

Twelve men were airlifted to safety from a disabled Danish oil rig supply vessel off Shetland and a supply boat sank after hitting a drilling rig off Great Yarmouth.

The coastguard and air-sea reslevels of staff at Christmas as on every day of the year, although a pared for those on duty.

### federation council advisory THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18.486



26 It's the language speaker used (7.8).

28 Duke's house-dog (8).

movement's

Cook chips with an edible plant

Locked up with different keys

6 What's left of very badly con-

8 More loving person making pro-

Like one of the king's men, regu-

Wreck in Adriatic port (5).

larly late for audience (8).

14 Relating to the mouthpiece of

16 Weapon with chamber, empty when all the rounds are fin-

19 Shot approaching house (2-5).

21 Captain of the B team in agony

22 Music in payan the man themat-

24 Jack's call to stop a giant (5). 25 Live broadcast's central part ca-

Wrestling attack rugby player

structed highway? (7).

posal (8).

the Palace (8).

may resort to (4-4),

ically repeated (6).

pably presented (5).

ished? (9).

this game (6).

**ACROSS** 1 March past made Browning feel

like this (8). 5 Compensated when unemployed as film actor (6). 10 Only accepting two names in order to make provision for mis-

11 There's always a way, he's found

12 Dancing, eg to a TV broadcast

Street area (4.4). 15 in which army section sees, say, enemy's van? (5).

13 Outstanding feature in Oxford

18 Not a day job, love for a swain 20 Sailor, in disposition an idle fel-

low (8). 23 Acclaim in part of theatre -

singular approbation (7). 25 Large catch put, initially, in hold

E R A II S RAIISE NEWSAGENT E V C A SN X

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

WORD-WATCHING

**PERSICO** a. Peach and apricot cordial b. Persian luxury c. A hot desert wind FOSSOR

27 Offspring of queen and king, it appears, with little honour (6). a. A grave-digger
b. An incisor tooth
c. A Roman legionary pioneer PARAPENTING Embroidery double hems Paracheting from a hill 1 100 in prison must be moved for c. Rounding sheep up for dipping

> Having ugly buttocks c. Covered with spots Answers on page 16, column 1

> > AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0835 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic. roadworks C London (within N & S Circs ) ....... M-ways/reads M4-Vit ..... 732 .... 733 M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T M-ways/roads Dartford T-V23 M-ways/roads V23-V4 M25 London Orbital only

734 735 736

National traffic and roundworks National motomays North-east England

...... 745 AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per mirute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at Concise Crossword, page 11

WEATHER Another wet and WEATHER Another wet and windy day areas of England and Scotland may be dry at first, but rain will sweep across all parts during the morning. At the same time, brighter weather with blustery showers, perhaps thundery, will spread into western parts. Showers over Scotland, northern England and Northern Ireland. Outlook: remaining windy, with bright periods and blustery showers.

ABROAD AROUND BRITAIN Algiers
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**HIGHEST & LOWEST** 

Yesterday: Temp may 6 am to 6 pm, 9C (48F); thin 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F) Humidity: 6 pm, 73 per cent Rain 24th to 6 pm, 24 in 5un 24 hr to

MANCHESTER

GLASGOW

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cast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code. Dorsot Hants & IOW
Devon & Cornwell
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Gwynedd & Clwyd
N W England W & S Yorks & Dales Cumbria & Lake District Edin S File/Lothian & Bordors rampian & E Highlands

.702 .703 .704 . 71O Weathercoa is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other

\_ YESTERDAY LIGHTING-UP TIME Sun sets: 3.57 pm NOON TODAY HIGH TIDES PM 8 16 7 49 1 06 05 16 12.51 05.34 11 22 058 05.26 11.50 07.00 05.12 04.48 12.32 12.40 12.42 (9.07 04 7 01.5 04.2 05.3 1139 1231 039 Tide in metres

Information supplied by Met Office OTIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1990. Published and printed by Times Newspapers Life of 1 Virginia Street. London E1 93Ns, lekephone 071,782 5000 and at 124 Pertinan Street. Rimino Park. Glassow G41 1EJ. telephone G41 420 1000. Wednesday, December 29-1990. Registered as a newspaper of the Post Office.

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-28

● SPORT 19-25

RACING 22,23

THE \*\*\*\* TIMES

# The cheats must change for the sake of the game

By Stuart Jones FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

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No. 20

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nued from page I

PROFESSIONAL footballers, and particularly those in the first division, will today carry a responsibility which they have recently been reluctant to accept. On a festive occasion traditionally reserved for large crowds, they should publicly begin to raise standards of behaviour which, statistically, sank to the lowest depths in history last weekend.

The strictness of Fifa's edicts, and of the referees who must enforce them, will no doubt be used by managers and players to explain the total of 15 dismissals, which has left an appalling blot on the season's landscape. If so, as ususal, they are side-stepping

own conduct and ask whether they are acting in the pure and mand of comparatively amateur officials. If they are honest, few can claim to be consistently paragons of virtue. Indeed many, albeit tech-evidently acceptable. nically but still overtly, are

The domestic game is not and especially the feigning of serious injury. But other necessary habits will be seen clubs?

Association envisages a New

he does not find evidence of

an upward trend in ill-disci-

After a League weekend

which saw 15 players dis-

missed, Kelly said that the

new initiative against denying

the opposition a goal by unfair

methods had played a consid-

sendings-off," he said. "It is fences.

pline in the English game.

How often, for instance, is the opposition? How often do members of an offending team react to a free kick by failing to retreat the required ten yards, and either holding on to the ball or kicking it away?

Any team which deliberately pursues such perverse and childish courses of action deserves not one jot of sympathy. They should be assisting the man in charge, not obstructing him. His de-cisions, no matter how erroneous, must visibly be accepted, and ideally without reservation. Seldom is that the

To the credit of Brian Instead of blaming others. Clough, Nottingham Forest they should examine their have long been the most notable exception. Rarely are any of his representatives seen professional manner they de- to argue or remonstrate with officials. At other clubs, where discipline is looser and attiis common and, even worse,

Managers and players claim in their defence that their livelihoods are at stake. In yet deeply infected with the spite of the inherent pressures infuriating dramatic excesses and the emotions they genof Europe, such as the diving erate, do they not have a duty to preserve the dignity and the honour of their chosen proequally irritating and un- fession as well as of their

It is ironic that England

we should keep in proportion.
"I think that if the Inter-

on new legislation

Year of increased sendings off, national Board accepts the

tics this season are in fact about to shoot to be made

lower than last season for automatic sending-off of-

of the game.

example by the national side during the World Cup. The an arm raised for a throw-in in the full knowledge that it should rightly be awarded to they and the present captain. Gary Lineker, have illustrated that success can be achieved without indulging in improper

In contrast, three of the leading clubs have since been viewed in a dimmer light. Arsenal and Manchester United brawled with each other, and two of Tottenham Hotspur's players were ordered off on Saturday.

The most potentially vol-atile fixture will be staged at Elland Road. It features supporters whose reputation was once notorious and teams which are in striking form. Leeds United, in climbing from eleventh to fifth, are unbeaten in their last nine matches. Chelsea, rising even more rapidly, have won all of their last five.

Passions are sure to be tudes less refined, the practice aroused by the sight of a is common and even worse prolific attack — Chelsea have averaged more than three goals a game over the last month - probing a sound defence - Leeds have conceded a goal every other game during the same period. Nowhere else is the balance likely

Liverpool should maintain their six-point lead by prolonging the miserable sequence of Queen's Park Rangers. Arsenal and Crystal Palace, both of whom are at Dismissals blamed home, can be expected to maintain their challenges. So should Tottenham, since Coventry City, whose inability to score is assuming chronic proportions, have yet to win under Terry Butcher. WHILE Graham Kelly, the obviously something which chief executive of the Football we should keep in proportion.

No one should be surprised, either, if Everton and Aston Villa, two toothless and sleeping giants, do not engage in a proposal from England that handling be included as well, soporific goalless draw. Shef-field United have awoken at we could be on course next last but they, like everyone season for some more else, will scarcely relish playsendings-off too until the ing on the wall-to-wall carpet message gets across that it is at Kenilworth Road. against the laws and the spirit

They should also beware of "It is something we do not Laton Town's recent record. vant to see in our English In their last two games, a total of three players have been sent The FA pressed Fifa, the off, eight have been booked "If you discard the so-called world's governing body, for and another ten have received 'professional foul' - the red such tactics as deliberately stern lectures. May they, card for serious foul play - tripping an opponent when a above all, instantly rediscover which I have described as an goal seemed probable or pull—the spirit of goodwill.

affront to the game, the statis—ing back a player who was

Leading article, page 9



## Lamb ruled out of Test

From Alan Lee CRICKET CORRESPONDENT MELBOURNE

ALLAN Lamb, the single positive factor in England's doleful batting this winter, was yesterday ruled out of the critical second Test match in round the Melbourne Cricket fident of playing in a match Ground.

that his torn calf muscle was sided proportions.

fitness test in evident distress injury. This doubtless ex-and Chris Lewis reported plains his show of temper in while mystifyingly running further discomfort from his protracted back injury.

Lewis and Lamb were left out when England named an optimistic party of 14 late last knock up, and then openly night. Gower and Small, who has a thigh strain, were in- manager, Peter Lush, before which England know they Lamb returned with a rueful must not lose if this series is shake of the head, convinced not to assume farcically one-

beyond repair for a five-day Gower is understandably game. Within minutes, England's selection problems ing sustained an inhibiting worsened still further as blow on the right wrist so soon Team news, page 21 David Gower cut short a after recovering from a thumb pretty distressed."

the nets yesterday morning, back to the team hotel in when he complained about the Ballarat after a three-hour intrusive presence of television cameras as he tried to enough to keep him out of the exchanged views with the tour grievous blow for a team stalking, stony-faced, out of as is possible to imagine.

Gower spent the next halfhour wandering alone on the contemplating the prospect of missing a match crucial to his future in the England side. Lush said: "He is very keen to play in this game and he is

back to the team hotel in innings, may yet be serious third Test in Sydney as well, a whose luck is presently as low

as 15 JUSSIDIE 10 IMAGINE.
AUSTRALIA (from): A R Border (captain),
G R Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, D M
Jones, S R Waugh, G R J Matthews, I A
Healy, M G Hughes, T M Adderman, B A
Reid, C G Racksmann, C J McDermott.
ENGLAND (from): G A Gooch (captain), M
A Atherton, W Larkine, D I Gower, R A
Smith, A J Stewart, J E Morris, R C
Russell, P A J DeFreitas, G C Small, A R C
Fraser, D E Malcolm, P C R Tuthell, E E
Hemmings.

Russell's aims, page 20

## Sheffield report has grim message

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE Liberal Democrats leader on Sheffield city council yesterday attacked the Labour majority for taking risks with municipal services in order to finance the 1991 World Student Games. Councillor David Chadwick was reacting to a progress report on the staging of the event, which will attract 6,000 competitors from 120 countries in 11 sports.

Anyone reading the report, which will be debated at an extraordinary meeting of the council on December 31, will understand why there are fears that the Games will lose more money than any event in the history of British sport.

Although Ray Gridley, the director of Games administration, still recommends that the council should not change its requirement that the final account "should produce a balance of expenditure against income", the uncertainty is

The report states: "The projected income is still and will remain a matter of managerial judgment and an element of risk will be associated with those judgments throughout the duration of the project." Chadwick com-mented: "The element of risk is in the order of £10 to £12 million of poll tax-payers' money in 1991. Labour poli-ticians in Sheffield town half are willing to write blank cheques' by authorising sev-eral council officers to enter into contractual arrangements for the Games without producing any evidence as to how income will be generated."

It is estimated that the Games will cost a minimum of £17 million to be staged and the report added that the pledged income is only £5.57 million. The organisers hope that increased sponsorship, ticket sales and merchandising will make up most of the deficit.

Both Pamela Gordon, the chief executive, and Malcolm Newman, the city treasurer admitted that there are at present "several significant uncertainties in relation to next year's overall budget".

Last June, the city council agreed to underwrite the Games and it seems certain that local services will be cut to pay for the biennial event because the city council cannot increase its poll tax in 1991 because it has been charge-capped by the

## Bookmakers blamed for crisis in racing

By RICHARD EVANS

BOOKMAKERS are largely responsible for the financial crisis facing British horse racing because their £200 million a year profits are made at the expense of the sport, according to a report to be submitted The latest analysis of the

racing industry, which includes a detailed breakdown prize money, which are forcing several owners and trainers out of racing, are directly report has been prepared by Christopher Spencer-Phillips, an owner-breeder from Rolvenden in Kent.

Prize money in the United Kingdom (£41 million last year) amounts to 0.9 per cent of the betting turnover (£4.3 billion), compared to 3 per cent in France and Hong Kong, 5 per cent in Australia, 7 per cent in the United States

and 9.65 per cent in Canada. By contrast, the government's 8 per cent betting duty is not out of line with other racing countries.

"The difference between the K prize money level of 0.0 UK prize money level of 0.9 Tota per cent of total money bet and a healthy prize money percentage of 3 per cent, must go to the bookmakers. This make money".

The report is certain to sport." provoke a furious response from the bookmakers' lobby, many punters. A copy is being home affairs select committee,

THE OVERALL PICTURE



"The bookmakers contribmust be the conclusion when ute nothing at all directly to comparing betting turnover prize money, other than a of bookmakers' earnings, comparing betting turnover prize money, other than a claims that the low levels of and percentage profit to sales small amount of voluntary figures for other countries sponsorship," the reort states. with the UK," the survey says. "Racing lays on this huge Owners, breeders, trainers and show from which the booklinked to money made by the stable lads "are and have been makers turn over £4.3 billion big betting battalions. The for some time, subsidising and make profits of £200 racing, while bookmakers million a year, yet they contribute nothing back to the

Such a damning statement will be challenged by the but it will strike a chord with Bookmakers' Committee, which recently told the allforwarded to the Commons party parliamentary racing and bloodstock industries committee that estimated paywhich is starting an enquiry into the betting industry next month.

A per cent is "extremely turnover – starting with 1 per disappointing" by any stance that estimated pay-disappointing by any stance that the Betting Office highly profitable cash business meetings — Pages 22, 23

in 1989/90. The contributions were made via sponsorship, racecourse admission fees, Satellite Information Services, copyright fee to the Tote, and racecourse betting offices, MPs were informed. By scouring annual reports

and culling City data, Spencer-Phillips has produced a fascinating snapshot of bookmakers turnover and profits which, if correct, undermines meagre profit claims made by bookies.

Licensees Assocation's net which would go to racecourses profit claim of 2 to 3 per cent and prizemoney. for bookmakers is "clearly Transferring the Tote with a untrue" and that Ladbrokes new, dynamic management have built a £2.5 billion business "paying nothing directly to racing for their racing

"There is a strong argument to suggest that the level of profitability of one or two of the bigger companies is understated, due to the way of The setting up of a new, allocating overheads to their democratically elected racing bookmaking divisions. Brent body to run racing. Walker paying 12 times earnings for William Hill would also seem to confirm this

product."

but did not offer a solution, Spencer-Phillips has proposed The report says that the recommendations include: contributing some realistic financial breakdown shows 

Bookmakers being made to percentage of their turnover that the Tote's market share of part with a small proportion of for their product."

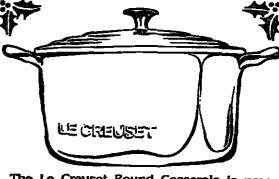
new, dynamic management team to racing's control. The

Tote should increase its market share of the UK betting market, launch a series of large guaranteed pool beting scheme nationwide and be prepared to buy William Hill, if it comes up for sale.

The report concludes: "The fundamentals of the industry in the UK can only be determined by a realistic prize Unlike the recent Zetland money fund in Britain to report, which analysed the make it a viable leisure in-financial plight facing racing dustry for all who participate in it, and this can only come about from strong managewhat needs to be done. His ment and the bookmakers

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## The abiding memory of one of Britain's greats

LILLIAN Board died 20 years ago today from cancer. It was the cruellest and most poignant of

Only six months earlier, she had been running competitively. She was the European 800 metres champion, a world record holder in the 4x400 metres relay, and an Olympic silver medal winner.

She was aged 22 and with so much to give the sport and so much living to do. In a sense, British women's athletics has never really replaced her because she has a unique aura about her, a vivacity,

and a simple charm. When she died, people in athletics COMMENT

felt that not only had they lost a champion, but also a friend. She was almost naive in her candour, There was no "side" to her. Born in Durban in 1948, she and

her twin sister, Irene, came to England with their Manchesterborn parents at the age of two. A member of the London Olympiades at the age of 12, she won the English schools junior long jump title twoand-a-half years later.

It was in 1967 that she became internationally renowned. As a 400 metres runner and racing in Los Angeles in a match between the United States and the British Commonwealth, she came through

the field to beat Judy Pollock, the world record holder, in 52.8sec, more than a second faster than she had run before.

Lillian was the clear favourite for the Olympic title and a successor to her friend, Mary Rand, as what was termed the "golden girls" of British athletics.

At the Mexico City Olympics, she looked supreme in the heats of the 400 metres and in the final, sped away from the field. She seemed uncatchable. But the altitude and the early effort cost her dearly, and as she tired, Colette Besson, of France, caught her in the last few strides to win by 0.07sec.

She had to wait a year for her revenge in an important event. At the European championships, she began by finishing first in the 800

metres. Some people questioned whether she had deliberately avoided the 400 metres because of the presence of Besson and her compatriot, Nicole Duclos. The

4x400 metres gave the answer. On the last lap she took the baton two metres behind Besson, who was ten metres up at one stage However, gradually, Board whittled away at the lead and as the pair entered the home straight the Briton knew she had a chance. It was one of Britain's epic relays. The pair were given the same time but the camera gave Board and Britain the victory. She was voted sportswoman of the year and received an

A year later she was fighting cancer. The press was sworn to secrecy and everyone respected the for Lillian."

wishes of her family and her boyfriend, David Emery, now sports editor of the Daily Express, who married Lillian's sister, Irene. When the news broke, people could not believe that the epitomy of health and fitness had been struck

down by such a disease. She struggled as courageously against cancer as she has struggled as an athlete. But on Boxing Day 1970, as people were leaving the football grounds of Britain, the bulletin came through that she was dead. athletics gathered in Helsinki for the 1971 European championships.

Eight months later, the world of Vera Nikolic, of Yugoslavia, a great rival of Board, was first in the 800 metres. When she came off the

# By JOHN GOODBODY

How Dalglish

managed to

fail just once

Christmas, my mother

same thing: "Well, I'm not going to sit and watch tele-

to play a game!"

Indoor League.

The inept family of shov-

ers gathers itself together and

takes its collective aim.

Coins skid nervously across

the little board, guided on their way by palms whose slow, solicitously imprecise

shoving style implies that

they have been warming

brandy glasses all day in-stead of practising their shove technique. Indeed, the

general standard of play is so

poor that a single game can

last the full 90 minutes, plus

extra time, plus sudden-

But shove ha'penny is for

the family in its athletic mode. There are other games

that it can play on Christmas

Day, board games, games

that do not involve standing

up and containing the

Christmas stomach. Every

year, in sedentary accom-

paniment to the shove ha-

penny, there has been a different board game: from

Mousetrap in the early

1970s, through Haunted

House and Totopoly, all the

way on towards the mature

ripeness of Trivial Pursuit

and the potential home-wrecker of 1989, Pictionary.

my trade and to the modish-

ness of football - and, more

precisely, of Terry Venables

- the game that bas been and

This year, in deference to

death penalty shove-out.

says to her family the

# Single-minded man with a mission

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

IN THE one-track world of Jack Russell, Christmas was cancelled this year. The only pertinent fact about yesterday, so far as England's wicketkeeper was concerned, was that it was the day before Boxing Day and the resumption of his life's

This morning, in the concrete bowl that Russell saw for the first time on Christmas Eve, Melbourne staged the start of the most traditional of all Ashes Test matches. the one which hosts a thousand hangovers and as many tall stories of festive high jinks.

Russell had no part in this. As usual, he was cocooned in his private world, a slave to his addiction. Christmas? "It does not exist this year," he says seriously. To me, the Test match is all that matters, and I have prepared for it in the same way I always do." And so, yesterday, as the England players upheld tradition with a

fancy dress party after two hours' practice, Russell could not wait to be away from the celebrations and back in the solitude he seeks before every big game. He ate a light lunch and drank nothing but water. Then he retired to his room and a few hours' meditation before a very

Russell denies being an eccentric but is well aware of the view. "The lads keep calling me a top-drawer loony," he smiles. "I don't mind that. We are all made differently. It's just that my whole life is geared to cricket, even my marriage. Everything I do is thought through to help my game, but I don't call that eccentric, more like common

It is necessary only to have a conversation with Russell to appreciate a commitment to cricket which far exceeds the levels demanded of his breed. Within minutes, he will tell you of his intention to play 100 Tests, to score 5,000 runs for England and, said most urgently of all, "to catch everything, never dropping a ball". It is the look in his eyes and the tone of his Cotswold voice that insists this is no act. This is a man seriously hooked and quite unabashed about saying



Private world: Russell immerses himself in exercises yesterday during practice for the second Test match against Australia at Melbourne

"I have been switched on to this Test for days now, thinking about their batsmen and bowlers, working on my own readiness. I am wound up about it because it is a matter of life and death to me. The game is a drug to me and I really can't imagine being without it."

Fastidious and idiosyncratic, Russell could be a clone of Alan Knott. He says he has worked out his own way of doing things, but adds immediately: "It might be no accident that they are also Knotty's ways. He is an inspiration to me, and has been from my very early days, when I used to love playing against Kent so that I could seek him out for advice at the end of a

"He was the greatest of all time in my position, a wicketkeeping all-rounder, and both by his achievements and his advice he has given my career direction. I have got to try and beat him, you see. I want to be better than he was.'

Knott (95 Tests, 4,389 runs and 269 dismissals) still has a comfortable lead on Russell (18 Tests, 716 runs and 55 dismissals) but he is not guarding it selfishly. Instead, he has become his successor's mentor and. three times already on this tour, he has telephoned Russell to pass on a tip or two from what he has seen on

"Mentally, he is brilliant," Russell says. "There are people on the

By SIMON WILDE

The benefits of a third official

being on hand to arbitrate on disputes, a proposal which the International Cricket Council

meeting next month is expected

to approve for all international

matches, were demonstrated

during a recent, unruly game in

South Africa, where indepen-dent referees are already in use.

The trouble occurred in a

but when it comes to the mental approach of wicketkeeping I go to him. If I get down, as I did when I was out cheaply in Ballarat on Sunday, I just go back to my room and watch Knotty's video. It always gets my head straight."

There is, predictably, a lot of Knott in Russell - more, probably, than he is aware of himself. The turned-up collar, the dangling hand-kerchief, the buttoned-down cuffs and the faithful old sunhat are all obvious similarities. But in private, too, they hardly differ. Like Knott, Russell is meticulous with his equipment, adding individual. touches such as extra padding on his batting gloves. Like Knott, he is

fussy to the point of fanatical over what he eats and drinks.

"Instead of eating cheese rolls in the dressing-room as I used to, I will have Weetabix, bananas, anything with plenty of carbohydrates for energy. Honey is another good thing I often have a spoonful during the drinks break. And although I might have a pint of shandy at home, I will never drink alcohol before a game,

It did not, as the amiable Russell bourne, and with the nineteenth of

admitted, make for much of a Christmas, but on tour, in Melhis intended 100 Tests about to

Steve (216 not out), bat on until they had established an Austra-lian partnership record for any

wicket, of 464 unbroken, in their match against Western Austra-

Western Australian followed on

287 behind and lost seven more

wickets in clearing the arrears, before Zoehrer and Macleay,

who both scored unbeaten

qualifying for the Shield final look remote after they lost for

the second successive week, by 14 runs to Tasmania in Bris-

bane. It was only Queensland's third Shield defeat in Brisbane

Hampshire county cricket club

the table.

in eight seasons.

Record profit

### shall be played is, of course, Rice reinstated by referee The publicity for The Manager implies that playing the game gives one the twins. Mark (229 not out) and

flavour of what it is like to be the boss of a football club. Win the game and you are Franz Beckenbauer, lose, and you will feel like David

The progress of the game is reasonably simple: one goes around a board, answering centuries, salvaged a draw. Had New South Wales won, they would have drawn level with Western Australia at the top of questions on either football. entertainment or general knowledge (aithough, Arr tina-like, one can win the Queensland's prospects of game without getting a single question right), throwing two dice, one of which represents the home score, one the away (these determine how one moves). One is attempting to assemble a

full team while hanging on to as many millions as possible. Managerial things happen on route, like playing the FA Cup, paying out vast sums of money for a new stand, selling a player to Juventus ... usual fourth-division

stuff. The game must be played with those willing to pretend they are managers. At first, my father was aloof from such childishness: seated in his armchair while around him was ranged a proper card table, three uncomfortable straight-backed chairs and three Cherie Lunghis (wife, mother-in-law and

daughter), he would play,

LAURA THOMPSON

vision after lunch! I'm going ves, but he would watch television at the same time And every year she (thus negating the whole purpose of the game). He disentombs a shove-ha'penny board that has led a perked up a bit on learning blameless life underneath that one could adopt a real somebody's bed for 364 days team to manage. "I'll have and now suddenly finds Liverpool," he said, his face itself centre stage, as if Fred momentarily creasing into Trueman had called it up for Scottish crags. "Give me a instant service on a revival red counter. of his 1970s television series,

I became Alex Ferguson and my grandmother, hav-ing admired him from afar in Langan's Brasserie, momentarily submerged her own being into that of George Graham, but we both relinquished the red counter to the mighty Liverpool.

My mother, quietly and perhaps wisely, stuck with blue and Spurs. "You're going to be Tel, are you?"

It began to emerge that Venables exerted a certain fascination over my father. Did Tel invent this game? Quite a clever man."

Tel sent 500 of these to the Gulf did he? Hmm." "Whose signature's on that money? Tel's?"

ut the game really took a hold when it came to playing in the FA Cup. One auctions off the spare teams (there are eight in all) and makes the draw: the matches are then decided on the throw of the dice. Obviously, it was seen to be advantageous to buy at least one other team in order to have a chance of winning the Cup. But the spirit of makebelieve was dancing merrily inside my father. Aren't you going to bid for another team?" "I've got Liverpool. I don't want that scrubby old

"It's not real, you know." The dice was thrown. Liverpool qualified, and qualified, and won the Cup. My father punched the air. "You tell Tel I stuck to Liverpool!"

There was no longer any talk of watching television at the same time. "I've nearly got a full team - I only want one or two scrubbers." Exorbitant deals began to be struck. "You can have my No. 10 if you give me a million pounds ... and No. 7." "You need No. 10, darim said my mothe who had gone dangerously quiet. "I can soon buy another one - I'll play myself for a few Saturdays.

I'm a player-manager." Oh yes, The Manager had got a grip on us. I was in ecstasy because I had had an almost surreal run of luck in correctly answering football questions; my grandmother was buying elongated benchfuls of substitutes; my father was Kenny Dalglish. Which meant that the winner, with surreptitious stashes of millions, 11 Spurs players and a Jack Charlton face of silent confidence, had to be my mother. "If only she could hold on to money like that in real life," scoffed my bewildered father.

How had Liverpool let it slip away? But there it was for the duration of The Manager, my mother had become Terry Venables; and Tel had pulled it off again.

## Sidhu takes India to easy victory

CHANDIGARH (AFP) — An unbeaten century by Navjot Sidhu carried India, the defending champions, to an emphatic nine-wicket victory over Bangladesh in the opening match of the three-nation Asia Cup here

Sidhu hit 10 fours and three sixes in his 104, his second onethe man-of-the-match award. shared an opening stand of 121 with Raman as Bangladesh learnt a hard lesson in the art of pacing an innings in one-day cricket.

Bangladesh's innings revolved around a third-wicket partnership of 108 between Farrukh Ahmed and Ather Ali Khan, both of whom were dropped early in their innings off Wasson, but the later bats-men could add only 34 in the

THE YEAR is ending on a less

than joyous note for members of the English Bridge Union's

mittee, whose new regulations on the bidding conventions

allowed in its tournaments have

The board of directors is

brought forth a shower of

conscious of a mixed reaction," the EBU chairman, Gerard

Faulkner, said. In fact, the reaction appears to cover the

narrow range from outright hostility to mere perplexity.

In 38 pages of small print, the committee sets out regulations for conventions in all EBU-

aced events. Not only rank-

ger Tallictar ded not bet. FALL OF WCKETE: 1-8, 2-28, 3-136, 4-150, 5-158, 6-164. BOWLING: Kapil Dev 8-1-17-2; Prabhater 10-2-28-1; Wasson 10-0-41-1; Mutherjee 10-2-29-0; Raju 10-0-27-2; Tendulker 2-0-15-0.

W V Ramen Ibw b Ali Khan N S Sidhu not out S V Manifekar not out Extras (Ib 3, w 7, nb 2) Total (1 wid, 36.5 overs).

PALL OF WICKET: 1-121.

"M Azharuddin, S R Tendulkar, Kapil Dev, M Prabhaker, †P K Anne, S L V Raju, S Mukherjee and A Wasson did not bet. BOWLING: Nawsher 9-1-24-0; Takudar 3-0-16-0; Hussain 3-0-25-0; Haque 5-0-26-0; Abedin 9-0-43-0; Ali Khan 6-1-23-1; Islam 1.5-0-11-0.

Total (6 wkts, 50 overs). G M Nawsher, †Nask Ahme of Taluktar did not bet.

and Hedges Trophy, a day-night, limited-overs series. It was a thrilling contest, which Transvaal won narrowly.

innings, the match was in the balance when Clive Rice, the Transvaal captain, was bowled on 59 by McMillan off a no-ball. Rice did not see the umpire's signal and set off towards the pavillion. At this, one of the Western Province fielders,

Daryll Cullinan, raced in with the ball to break the wicket. Backed by his captain, Lawrence Jackman, the former England Seeff, he appealed for a run out. The umpire gave Rice out. A full-blown dispute ensued, with Rice, having seen what had happened, hurling to the ground

first his helmet and then his bat. It was at this point that the offfield referee intervened. He overruled the umpire's decision and had Rice reinstated, quite An incorrect decision, one doubtless brought on, as so often, by the heat of the mo-ment, was thus averted. Seeff However, at 139 for four in later apologised to Rice for what the thirtieth over of Transvaal's had happened, although some

Western Province players attracted further criticism by claiming that the laws did not once he had reached the

agnosed as having a blood clot under his collarbone. Adrian Kuiper, who was dismissed as match at Johannesburg, where
Transvaal were chasing a target
of 212 off 39 overs to beat
Western Province in the Benson
Transvaal were chasing a target
of 212 off 39 overs to beat
western Province in the Benson
Transvaal were chasing a target
batsman could not be run out if
the had not been attempting a
trun. Rice went on to score 68.

Transvaal were chasing a target
batsman could not be run out if
the had not been attempting a
trun. Rice went on to score 68. If South Africa are soon to return to the international scene, the timing may prove perfect for one prodigy. Her-schelle Gibbs, aged 16, a coloured from Cape Town of

player, have been involved in breaches of discipline. Both Seeff, after a Currie Cup match,

and Steve Jefferies, after the

Nissan Shield semi-final, have been fined for showing dissent

towards umpires. Shortly after the Johannesburg fracas, Seeff's

season was brought to a pre-mature end when he was di-

whom great things are forecast, has announced himself by scor-ing 77 on his first-class debut for Western Province B against Transvaal B.

pavillion, as Rice had.

It is not the first time this season that Western Province,

### has announced a record profit of almost £71,000 for the year ended October 31. TODAY'S FIXTURES

Exon v Aylesbury (11.0); Wolding v Woldingham. First divisios: Aveley v Hitchin; Chesham v Chalfont St Peter; Dorking v Walton and Hersham; Duvisich v Bromley; Harlow v Molessy; Southwark v Worthbur; Togelie Dorking v Walton and Hersham; Culwich's Bromley; Harlow v Molessy; Southwark v Worthing: Tooting and Micham; v Heybridge Swifts: Uxbridge v Ysading; Whytoleafe v Croydon, Second divisions north: Baskidon v Purfiset; Coffier Row v Tibury; Edgware v Tring; Hemel Hempshad v Finchley; Kingsbury v Barton; Rainham v Clapton; Saffron Walden v Hornchurch; Stevenage v Herstord; Vaudali Mctors v Berhemshet; Ware v Royston; Witham v Billenicey, Second division south: Abingdon v Flackwell Heath; Camberley v Petarafield; Cherthary v Fetham; Hampfield v Bracknet; Horsham v Epson and Newell; Leartherhead v Cove; Newbury v Hungerford; Rulstip Manor; Misidon Vale; Southall v Mactenhead; Horsh (Landen)

RUGBY LEAGUE

**RUGBY UNION** Club matches Aberavor v Neath 

Portypool v Tredegar (2.30)... Roundhay v Harrogate (2.15) . Selidirk v Kelso (2.0) . Swansee v Sth Wales Pol..... Waterloo v Birkenhead (2.15) .

HOCKEY: Cheshire v Lancashire (Liverpool Selton ground, 2.30).

SPORT ON TV

17.00: Superbikes. 888 17.00-10.00: Moto cross.
Motor SPORT: Screensport 10.00-10.20 and 888 22.30-23.30.
MOUNTAINEERING: Eurosport 09.30-11.00: Ascent of The Matterform.
RACING: Screensport 10.30-11.00: French season. C4 12.85-15.00: 12.45, 1.15, 1.45, 2.20 and 2.50 from Kompton.
868 23.30-midnight: Racing news.
RALLYING: Eurosport 20.00-21.00: Peris-Tokker preview.

PALLYPRICE Eurosport 20,00-21,00: Performance of the Performance of th

### **RUGBY LEAGUE**

## old rivals for cup tie

At this derby match, as well the others in both divisions, a large crowd can be expected to swell flagging coffers and limp bank accounts,

place between St Helens and Wigan. Here again the at-mosphere will be slightly abnormal, in that both clubs play under unexpected shadows. Wigan, the champions, have stumbled several times of late and trail behind the first di-

St Helens, for their part, are

The action starts earliest east of the Pennines with morning kick-offs as Leeds entertain Bradford Northern and Featherstone have their near neighbours Wakefield Trinity as

Hall will expect to retain their first division leadership by beating Castleford, who again showed their frailty after a run of good results by falling to Rochdale Hornets in the Regal

In the second division, Leigh.

strong bet to end the immunity

United . the OP

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## bowls again Midland Bank return to bowls

champion from Port Talbot. heads one of the strongest-ever fields, which includes former champions David Bryant, Jim

and Richard Corsie.

game against the Barbarians at Welford Road tomorrow. Their replacements are Adey Marriott

### enjoyable game of duplicate, but also experienced tournament directors, seem equally baffled. IN BRIEF

sponsorship with a £130,000 bonanza when they stage the Preston from February 12 to 24

Baker, Tony Allcock, Hugh Duff TENNIS: David Wheaton has Saturday as the Panthers beat been named to replace Pete Durham Wasps 10-2 with Sampras, who is injured, in the Bidner scoring five times.

Sampras, who is injured, in the United States team competing in the Hopman Cup exhibition five-goal scorer on Sunday in defenceman Stephen Cooper. RUGBY UNION: John Wells. the flanker, and Brian Smith, the fly half are out of Leicester's

MOTOR RACING: Martin Brundle, who has signed to division of the Heineken drive the Brabham Yamaha Grand Prix car for next season, will open the Auto Sports diff Devils remained in second

EBU regulations criticised

The most outspoken critic is EBU, and just as I am beginning the EBU's own vice-chairman, Peter Stocken. In a letter to members of the committee, he writes: "It is one of the most illconsidered most hadly written and most difficult to understand pamphlets to emanate from this committee."

at what promises to be a lively meeting of the EBU council on

But opaqueness of language may ultimately be less damaging than the complicated nature of some of the conventions themseives. Many players are already being discouraged by the labyrinthine bidding methods that avid theorists are permitted to use when playing in EBU-licenced events. Now these players may be alienated futher.

"For the last two years,"
Stocken added, "I have had the responsibility for trying to increase the membership of the control o

our efforts."

January 9, when all 39 county associations may participate.

Meanwhile, ten of Britain's top pairs are to do battle at the Young Chelsea Club from Friday through Monday in final trials for the European championships in Killarney. At this level, they may use any systems they like. The selectors have named Tony Forester, with his partner, Anders, Polysters

to detect some glimmering of success, this committee - of

which I am part - sends out a publication that undermines all

The matter is due for debate

ICE HOCKEY

## Bank backs | Panthers' new signing pays a rich dividend

By Norman de Mesquita

ALEX Dampier, the Nottingham Panthers coach, decided recently that his team needed help in attack. So he released Rich Strachan, his import defenceman, and acquired Todd Bidner, an import forward. The immediate result was a disappointing draw with Fife Flyers, but the move paid off on

but they still had to battle to hold on 7-5 against the improving Cleveland Bombers. Another improving team are Peterborough Pirates, who had wins over Whitley Warriors and

Solihuli Barons to move into fourth place in the premier

and third places, each gaining

Poor Lee Valley Lions, Following a run of 13 defeats, they reorganised their management structure last week, dispensing with the services of their coach, Wayne Evers. Ideally, a couple of morale-boosting wins would have been th perfect result. Unfortunately. they had to face the teams lying second and third in the first division, Slough Jets and Bracknell Bees, Predictably, the Lions have now lost 15 in a row, RESULTS: Premier division: Ayr Raiders 8, Mutrayfield Rosers 12: File Flyers 5, Carolif Devils 8: Nottingham Pacthers 18. Duman Wasps 2: Paterborough Prates 8, Whaley Wernors 2: Duman Wasps 10, Cleveland Bombers 7; Mutrayfield Racers 19, File Flyers 8; Soling Barans 6, Peterborough Prates 7; Wattay Vistriers 8, Carolif Devils 11. Fins division: Besingstoke Besvers 11, Medway Bears 6; Humberside Seathawts 4, Romford Raiders 3; Sough Jess 12, Lee Valley Lions 9; Teltord Tigers 11, Glasgow Santis 14; Bradheid Beas 15, Lee Valley Lions 6; Humberside Seathawts 13, Glasgow Santis 14; Bradheid Beas 15, Lee Valley Lions 6; Humberside Seathawts 13, Clasgow Santis 8; Medway Bears 5; Swittlen Wildcata 8; Romford Reiders 13, Trafford Metros 4. Lions have now lost 15 in a row,

3.0 unless stated Barclays League

Arsenal v Derby Co (12.0)...... Coventry v Tottenham (12.0)... C Palace v Sunderland (12.0). Nottm Forest v Wimbledon

Second division Blackburn v Notts Co. Brighton v Bristol F (12.30)
Bristol City v Portsmouth (11.30) ....
Hull v Oxford lpswich v Middlesbrough... Milwall v Leicester (11.30)

Newcastle v Swindor West Bromwich v Chariton...... West Ham v Oldham (all ticket, 12.0) Third division Birmingham v Brentford ... Bournemouth v Mansfield Bury v Leyton Orient.....

Wisan v Exeter....

Aldershot v Darlington ........ Blackpool v Peterborough...

Doncaster v Maidatone
Gillingham v Watsall
Hartispool v Stockport
Rochdale v York
Scarborough v Halifax
Scunthorpe v Northampton
Torrussy L Incode (11 th Torquey v Lincoln (11.0)...... Wrexham v Hereford (12.0)... **GM Vauxhali Conference** 

Merthyr v Kidderminster.... Northwich v Fluncorn...... Stafford R v Tetford (11.0) Sutton Utd v Siouch (11.30) Welling v Fisher Ath (11.30) Wycombe W v Cheltenham

B and Q Scottish League

VALIDHALI, LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Errield (11.0); Brishop's Sur v Vilvenhoe; Carshaton v Kingstonsin; Dagenham v Rothridge Forest; Hayes v Harrow (11.15): Marlow v Statres (11.0); St Albans v Hendon (11.30); Windsor and

Aberdeen v St Mirren (B.C) .

Premier division

and Newelt Leatherhead v Cove; Newbury v Hungerford: Ruising Manor; Mation Vale; Southall v Maxiensheed.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier divisions Bangor City v Witton; Bashop Auctiand v Goole (12.0); Chorley v Morecambe; Fleetwood v Horwich (11.0); Gaineborough v Shenshed (11.30); Lank Town v Frickley (12.0); Marine v Southport; Matiock v Blocton; Messley v Droyleder; Stalybridge v Hyde. First division; Accrington Stariley v Rossendale; Bridlington Town v Worksop; Curzon Ashton v Newtown; Eastwood Town v Altreton; Ersley v Farsley Cette; Irlam v Warrington; Lancaster v Whitely Bay; Raddiffe Borough v Harrogate; Winstone; Ersley v Foole; Burton v Atherstone Eastway v Poole; Burton v Congleton; Workforgon v Netherfield.

BEAZER HORRES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bastiney v Poole; Burton v Atherstone (11.0); Crawley v Wastistone (11.30); Crawley v Wastistone (11.30); Crawley v Wastistone (11.30); Bartond v Dower (12.0); Dorchester v Waymouth (12.0); Halesowen v Bromagnow (11.0); Moor Green v VS Rugby (11.0); Rushden v Cambridge; Waserhowlle v Famborough (12.0); Worcaster v Waymouth (12.0); Halesowen v Bernaporove (11.0); Moor Green v VS Rugby (11.0); Rushden v Cambridge; Waserhowlle v Famborough (12.0); Worcaster v Goucester (12.0); Middled divisions (11.0); Newport AFC v Barry; Numaton Borough v Bedworth; Spidling v Grantisen; Stouthers of Valley; Centerbury v Margate: Correttians v Ertit and Belveders; Durestable v Batiotic Selstone v Hyths; Gosport Borough v Newport LOW; Hastings v Ashtort; Salsbury v Andows; Witney v Buckingham; Yals v Trowbridge.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES
LEAGUE: Prestier division: Chatters v
March; Ciacton v Tiptret; Felintowe v
Stowmarket; Gorleston v Greet Yarmouth;
Halsteed v Braintree; Harwich and
Partietton v Branthern Ath: Lowestoft v
Routhern, Newmarket v Histon; Watton v
Thetford; Wilsboch v Haverhill, LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Derry City v Galway United (3.30); Lim-erick v Cork City (2.15); St Patrick's Athletic v Sharmock Rovers (2.15).

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Featherstone Wakefield (11.30); Hut v Casteford (3.18); Hut KR v Sheffield (3.15); Lead v Bradford (11.30); Oldhem v Rochdate (3.0); St Helens v Wigns (3.19); Warrington v Widnes (3.0); Bramley v Hunslet (3.30); Dewsbury v Batter (11.30); Doncstar v Phydiate-York (12.0); Huddersfield v Chortey (3.30); Notyriey v Helatz (3.10; Leigh v Selford (3.30); Verticon v Trafford (3.0); Wistehaven v Workington (3.30).

ATHLETICS: BSB 13.30-15.00: The Sun Life Great Race. BASEBALL: Eurosport 07.30-08.30: Malor Lesgue from the United States. BASKSTBALL: Screensport 13:30-15:00 and 20:00-22:30: Heariem Week, BOXING: Eurosport 27:00-22:00. CRICKET: Sky One 23:30 (Tuesday) - 07:30am and 23:00-07:30 (tuesday) - 07:30am and 23:00-07:30 (tuesday) - 07:30am and 23:00-07:30 (tuesday) - VENDIAND SCREENS - VE BBC2 15.39-17.UC Second Test: AUSITEM V England.
EGUESTRIANTISM: Eurosport 11.0012.00: Netion's Gup review.
EUROSPORT NEWES: Eurosport 18.3019.00 and 23.00-23.30.
FOOTBALL: BBC1 10.30-11.30: World Cup Highlights. 858 20.00-22.00 and 00.30-02.30 (homorrow): Scottish league.
GOLF: C4 11.30-12.35: Pro-celebrity svent from France.
ICE HOCKEY: Screensport 08.00-10.00, 11.00-13.00 and 22.30-midnight: National Hockey League.

11.00-13.00 and 22.30-monogen reason.
Hockey League, ICE SIGNING: Screensport 17.00-18.00 and Eurosport 17.00-18.30: Screen Canada JUDO: Eurosport 08.00-09.30: European clasmolonatipa.
MOTORCYCLING: Screensport 16.30-17.00: Superbikes. BSS 17.00-18.00: Motor Colon.

# League action prepares

derby fixtures, as Warrington entertain Widness in a preview of

The teams and the coaches share a dilemma. Whether to go all out for valuable league points and a psychological boost, or to avoid the risk of injury and the giving away of too many clues. No doubt, being professionals, both teams will go for the first option, but nevertheless it is hardly an ideal fixturing

At Knowsley Road, another great traditional derby will take

having a disastrous spell, and a further defeat today against the ancient enemy will end their championship hopes and championship hopes and championship hopes and brians Barrow, while Ryedale-

THERE will be a strange air way, Gregory and Lydon about one of today's traditional derby fixtures, as Warrington forward, Skerrett, who broke his next Saturday's Regal Trophy aside this minor irritant and termi-final.

Trophy.
Hull Kingston Rovers 280 have a home fixture, and it will

be interesting to see if Sheffield Eagles can follow up their win over St Helens with a surprise success at Craven Park. The other first division fixture brings one more traditional derby as Oldham play Rochdale Hornets in a survival match. and trail behind the first di-vision leaders. Hull and of Beardmore, are a reasonably

deepen the gloom enveloping brians Barrow, while Ryedale-Knowsley Road. York may hit problems at

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ECEMBER 26 1990

HOW long should we go on believing an ageing great sportsman who keeps saying that he has one more big performance left in him when the facts suggest otherwise? How long before his words are interpreted as a desperate attempt to stay in the

If Daley Thompson misses a medal in the world championships next year, will anyone have faith in his inevitable cry that he can regain his Olympic decathlon crown the year after? The defiance was heard after he lost his world title in 1987, and again in 1988, when he was fourth in the Olympics.

ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

There is nothing left of Thompson's empire, save his world record. But the empire was once so vast that we might return the favour for the pleasure he gave us by giving him the benefit of our doubt now. "If I win in

Test of time holds few terrors for Thompson Barcelona," he said just this

Peter Matthews, editor of The International Track and Field Annual, is one who is keeping faith, retaining Thompson in the list of biographies for next year's annual because he is "likely to

This year Thompson has lost his Commonwealth and European titles to injury submissions. Perhaps he would have lost them anyway, but being tripped on the way to the ring was hard to take. More defiance: "If this knee gets anywhere near back to where it used to be, and the other boys keep performing as they are at the moment, I don't think I'll have a problem," he said last

Besotted by the decathlon, he once said he wished he could do one a week. Now, 15 months have passed since his last one, and he retired from that at halfcome his eleventh event. He will be 33 come the world championships. The average age of the top ten decathletes in the world this year is 25, and not one was born within four years of Thompson's

Not that his behaviour gives away his age; that banana smile still breaks out with each mischievous remark, no matter if it is at his own expense. Who was it, do you suppose, cried "decathlon" from the sidelines when Steve Cram, being inter-viewed for television, was asked to name the events in which Britain had not had much recent

Away from the public gaze - a sports hall in Frodsham is hardly the maker of Olympic dreams, but this man was trying -Thompson got down to some serious talking. "I have never felt any need to look back," he said. "I am inspired by the things I

thought I have achieved the things I should have. If I win in Barcelona ... when I win in Barcelona . . . I should have won the Olympics four times."

In Seoul he was 182 points behind the gold medal winner, Christian Schenk; it was the difference, arguably, between good fortune and bad, his pole having snapped on his opening height, aggravating a thigh

"Can you...?" The question went unfinished. "Yes, I can." 'Cannot" is a word Thompson learnt to do without from an early age, when his parents left him to fend for himself by packing him off to a boarding school at the age of seven. "I was a pain in the neck when I was little ... and I was always arguing with my mother. So they sent me to boarding school."

A trace of self-doubt is evident, though. "I don't think I

10. I think I am training with as much effort as I used to. I don't put as many hours in but my judgment is that what hours I do put in I use more wisely. The only thing I am having any trouble with is the long jump because I am having to relearn the skill. I haven't done it for two

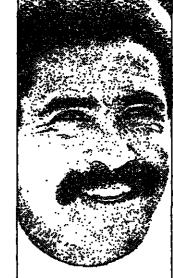
The knee which required surgery for calcification and put him out of the out of the European championships no longer troubles him, he says. Attending hospital as a patient was hard for Thompson to accept. "I've never been one for doctors, and hospitals were for visiting other people," he said.

He is past the need for rehabilitation and into full flow. "I've been training seven days a week, four or five hours a day, and getting on the track three times a week. I must have a wicked chance in Tokyo because

as I used to be. I don't think the event has moved on at all. The things I am doing in training seem to be going OK, but it is hard to assess because I have not had any competiton. I need a test

the logs. He has plans to go to the United States in February for training. He offers no clues as to when he might reappear in competition. "If I get to America on the Tuesday and there is a competition on the Wednesday and I decide to do it, then that is what I will do."

Frank Dick, his coach, says Thompson will be doing "a comprehensive programme in-doors and out". The word from Dick is that the athlete is "sprinting great stuff in train-ing". But, as Thompson acknowledges, "competition is the test of anything". Tokyo and Barcelona await



### **FOOTBALL**

## United offer Robson the opportunity to stay at Old Trafford

BRYAN Robson has a part to play in Manchester United's future challenge for the championship, an honour they have not won since 1967. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, will offer Robson a new contract when his present deal runs out at the end of the

Bryan has exceptional qualities and I'm looking to him as a natural leader to take us through the minefields we will encounter if we are to win the championship, which is my intention," Ferguson said. "We haven't discussed a new contract yet because it makes through it fine and it's great to sense to see how he progresses see him back," Ferguson said

things are looking good and we will be talking soon."

### Steel, the Tranmere Rovers forward, who wishes to join recovering from an Achilles the Merseyside Police force. tendon injury. "He came Steel, aged 31, has made over

First division

Arsenal v Derby County Arsenal seem certain to retain Austral search certain or retain the language of the imprisoned Adams. A cracked rib will keep Hebberd out of Derby's midfield. Callaghan will make his finel appearance before returning to Aston Villa after three months on loan.

C Palace v Sunderland Palace should be unchanged.
Kay, who was sent off on Sunday, is expected to keep his place in Sunderland's defence. Devenport may return from a hamstring

Everton v Aston Villa out of Villa's last three matches, will return to face his former club after suspension. Olney is still out with a knee injury.

Leeds United v Chelsea Haddock, the victim of Kav's reaction. The vicini or key's tackle on Sunday, is out of the Leads defence. Glynn Snodin and Beglin are the rivals for his place. Monitou (hamstring) is out of Chalsea's defence. His place will go to either Johnsen or Lee.

Luton v Sheffield United Luton might give a full league debut in attack to Farrell as Dowie — who broke a barren spell in the 2-1 defeat at Tottenham — was

Man United v Norwich Robson is expected to be retained by United though maybe

Even in a French season notable for financial scandals,

arrests, wild accusations be-

tween club chairmen and even

the threat of a players' strike, the goings-on at Marseilles this season have taken pride of

place.

The club started the season under the guidance of the highly respected young coach, Gerard Gili, who had steered them to

nard Tapie. He wanted Marseilles to be-

First division leaders

after his Achilles injury. But Robson, the former Eng-

land captain, completed a League game for the first time this season on Saturday, after TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

not at sweeper. Sharpe, irwin and Wallace are all in contention for places. Norwich have added Smith, a teenager, to their squad but will probably be unchanged.

Nottm F v Wimbledon

Forest's goalkeeping choice is between Sutton, who could make

between Surton, who could make his first appearance of the season, and Crossley, who is low on confidence. In midfield Hodge could play his first game in seasons are month offer monerated.

almost a month after recovering from a calf injury. Curle, sent of against Manchester United,

than Walker.

With two goals on Saturday

with two global of sautury, after replacing Beardsley, Rosenthal has given Liverpool a tricky selection problem. Rangers' new defenders, Peacock and Tillson, will find the

Cockerili may return (or Southampton as Case (back injury) is doubtful. Rod Wallace, who scored twice at Liverpool, may be retained in place of Rideout.

A hemstring injury may keep Ritchie out of Oldham's side. If he

falls a late fitness test, Palmer

— the scorer of four goals in two
games — will again deputise.

Gili's part in these transfers

was never clear but he took the team to the European Cup semi-finals last season, where they

Benfica. It was not enough. Enter Franz Beckenbauer, who had just led West Germany

to the World Cup; exit Gili, who was promptly snapped up be Marseilles's arch-rivals, Bordeaux, who had fired the coach

who took them to second place in the league last year, Raymond

watched with apparent satisfac-tion as the team demolished

Second division

from a cau my against Manchester United, keeps his place in Wimbledon's defence, hoping to justify his assessment that he is

Harry McNally is to continue as the manager of Ches-ter City after Ray Crofts, the chairman of the third division club, refused to accept his resignation. McNally offered to resign on Sunday when he met with Crofts to discuss an incident which occurred in a

part in United's first league

win at Wimbledon. He has

squad to play Norwich City today at Old Trafford.

"Bryan is 34 and naturally we must think about his

future. A lot of people might

fancy him, but I want him at

Old Trafford and I have no

One player who will not be

staying on next season is Jim

500 league and cup appear-

ances and scored 127 goals

during his career at Oldham

Athletic, Port Vale, Wrexham

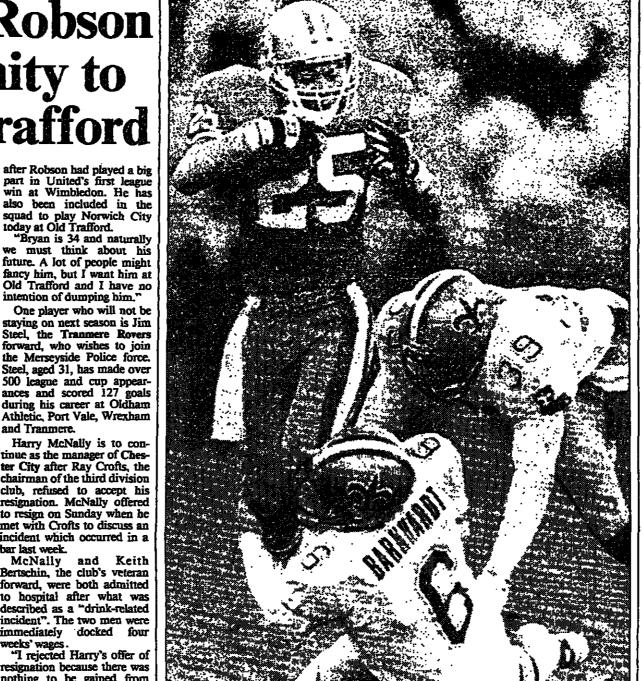
intention of dumping him."

bar last week. McNally and Keith Bertschin, the club's veteran forward, were both admitted to hospital after what was described as a "drink-related incident". The two men were immediately docked four

weeks' wages "I rejected Harry's offer of resignation because there was nothing to be gained from disposing of his servies," Crofts said.

John Byrne, the Brighton Southampton v Man City forward, will spend the festive period in hospital for a cartilage operation and will be out of action for a month. The Republic of Ireland international, who returned to the West Ham U v Oldham A League in September in a £125,000 move from Le Havre. the French club, injured his right knee at Oldham on

### AMERICAN FOOTBALL



No way through: Davis, of San Francisco, is tackled by Barnhardt, of New Orleans

## 49ers miss injured Montana

NEW York (Reuter) — The powerful San Francisco 49ers, who kept Joe Montana on the bench, suffered only their second defeat of the season as the casualty list of injured quarterbacks in the National Football League (NFL) grew on Sunday.

Montana, named by Sports illustrated magazine last week as the Sportsman of the Year, sat out San Francisco's game against New Orleans because of an abdominal strain and the 49ers, with Steve Young in Montana's place, lost 13-10. Their record is now 13 wins and two defeats — still the joint best in the League.

Young ran for 102 yards and passed for 208 more for the defending NFL champions, but the Saints moved their record to seven wins and eight losses on Morten Andersen's 30-yard fourth-quarter field goal to stay when his thurb hit the heirs of linebacker James moved the sent to have my season will replaced in when the Oilers play AFC Central leaders.

Cinnch the final National Football Conference (NFC) play-off berth. Dallas will finish their season with little-used backup Babe Laufenberg. They can still lite-used backup Babe Laufenberg. They can still lite-used backup Babe Laufenberg. They can still swill finish their season with little-used backup Babe Laufenberg. They can still surple of swith a triumph over Atlanta next week. If Dallas lose, the Saints can be played beth by beating the Los Angeles Rams 13. New York Gents 24, Phoents Cardinals 21; New Fork Saints Conference (AFC) Central division.

"It's devastating." Moon said. "It's one thing to have a division title taken away from us. it's another to have my season taken away from me."

Moon was injured in the final cardinal forms 14: Checago Bents 24, Maint Dolphons 25; New York Gents 24, Phoents Cardinals 21; New Tobles Saints and Up. And Tobles Saints Saints Saints Saints S

On a day when the play-off-bound Buffalo Bills, New York Giants and Chicago Bears won

gles which cost them a chance to

NEW York (Reuter) - The clinch the final National Foot- defeat.

seven wins and eight losses on Morten Andersen's 30-yard fourth-quarter field goal to stay fourth-quarter field goal to stay place him when the Oilers play AFC Central leaders, Pitts-

burgh. The Steelers lead the division with a 9-6 record after a 35-0 rout of Cleveland. The Oilers Giants and Chicago Bears won without their top quarterbacks, the Dallas Cowboys and Houston Oilers suffered double losses.

The Cowboys' Troy Aikman sustained a dislocated shoulder in the first quarter of a 17-3 defeat against Philadelphia Eagles which cost them a chance to rout of Cleveland. The Oilers can only win the division if they beat Pittsburgh and Cincinnati lose to lowly Cleveland. Another quarterback to fall was New England's rooking the first quarter of a 17-3 defeat against Philadelphia Eagles which cost them a chance to

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

## Thompson: defiant **RUGBY UNION** Bath will not take upwardly mobile neighbours lightly

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

music-hall, but there will be many in Bath who look forward to the traditional Boxing Day encounter. They will also look forward to the return to active service today of John Palmer, who has requested the opportunity to play against local opponents with whom rugby links go back more than a century.

Palmer, now a member of the Bath coaching panel, is well aware of the number of former Bristolians who have helped in Clifton's upward climb, most of them his playing contemporaries. The exchange of rugby memories will add spice to the day, while among the forwards the presence of Gareth Chilcott, author and hamourist, in the Bath front row will be a traditionally familiar sight ditionally familiar sight.

The Bath mixture, in other availability, though Clifton, ly-ing second in the third division of the Courage Clubs Champ-ionship, have done quite enough this season not to be taken lightly. They are more than music-hall even if they cannot master the lilting lines of the Fijian side in full flow which scored 12 tries against Bath in Toulouse last Saturday.

Jack Rowell, the Bath coach, was delighted with the French experience. It was always liable to end in sorrow given the absence of so many key players, but the exposure of so many members of Bath's next generation of players to overseas better. Fiji catch fire, very few can stay
with them," Rowell said.

Lianell on Saturday and play
Gloucester on New Year's day.
They are then away to

FROM the Fijian national side at Bath University. Richard to Clifton within four days may Hill, the England scrum half, seem like moving from opera to jarred a thumb, which gave lan Saunders an appearance against Fiji until he broke a thumb and Hill, who is due to play for the Barbarians at Leicester tomor-

row, replaced him.
Sadly, John Wells, the England B flanker, will miss that match: the cartilage injury sustained playing in the divisional championship has not improved sufficiently, so Adey Marriott will take his place in Harris will play at stand-off half first choice, leaves with Ireland for the Algarve tomorrow.

Elsewhere today the usual

occur, the men of the Livinti Field to watch Bridgend and division club, Lydney, takes on first-division opponents at Gloucester, and Moseley seek to reverse last season's defeat against Coventry.

Moseley give Bob Massey his

debut at centre, Massey having joined from Nuneaton at the beginning of the season only to be afflicted with hamstring problems. Massey has also had a spell at Coventry, and it was an outstanding game against Cov-entry's second XV last weekend that won him a place in Moseley's first XV today. Richard Kapa, the New Zealand wing, is also introduced to the joys of this particular longthe flanker, will lead the side in his 250th game.

We were just short of thereafter, for a demanding two or three players to give string of games: they travel to further spine to the side, and if Lianelli on Saturday and play with them, "Rowell said.

None the less, there were good displays from Martin Haag, the Cornish lock, and Gareth Adams, the former England Schools flanker, now a student Gloucester on New Year's day.

They are then away to Newbridge, to Bath in the League and, a fortnight later, to Bristol in the Pilkington Cup.

Their knowledge of the M5 will be positively encyclopaedic.

## White returns for the Anglo-Scots

DEREK White, the Scotland H Roberts (London Scottish), P Burnett No. 8, returns to the Anglo-capit, D Cronin (Batti), J Macklin (London Scottish), C Gray (Nottingham, capit, D Cronin (Batti), J Macklin (London Scottish), I Contact the final round of the McEwan's J Smith (Gloucester), Replacements: 8 Jardine (Glamorgan Warderers) G Smith (Moseley), B Glachrist (London Scottish), P Burnett No. 8, returns to the Anglo-capit (London Scottish), P Burnett No. 8, returns to the Anglo-capit (London Scottish), P Burnett No. 8, returns to the Anglo-capit (London Scottish), P Burnett No. 8, returns to the Anglo-capit (London Scottish), C Gray (Nottingham, capit (London Scottish), C Gray (Nottingham, capit (London Scottish), C Gray (Nottingham, capit (London Scottish), P Burnett No. 8, returns to the Anglo-capit (London Scottish), C Gray (Nottingham, capit (London Scott • Finlay Calder, the former Richmond on Saturday.

White, who has missed most by the search after the search after fracturing a four Scotland players named in

replace Shaun McGaughie, Stuart Jardine and Mark Carr.

of this season after fracturing a cheek bone, made an impressive return to the top level last burn Place today. Calder is of this season after fracturing a cheek bone, made an impressive return to the top level last Saturday in Seville where Scotland A beat Spain 39-7. Jeremy Macklin, who has played No. 8 for the Anglos in their three matches this season, moves to the blind side at the expense of the promising London Scot, Niall McBain.

In the backs there are three changes: Richard Cramb, David Millard and Lindsay Renwick replace Shaun McGaughie.

Stuart lardine and Mark Cart.

There are three comportants of the Co-optimists XV to play Edinburgh Academicals at Raeburn Place today. Calder is joined by Lineen, Wyllie and Brewster.

CO-OPTIMISTS: A Donaldson (Currie): Shrifting (Edinburgh Academicals at Raeburn Place today. Calder is joined by Lineen, Wyllie and Brewster.

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CO-OPTIMISTS: A Donaldson (Currie): Shrifting (Edinburgh Wanderers), I Jeardine Moholing, 2001, M Hall (Edinburgh Wanderers), I Berwarder (Stewart's - Maiville). Kinekanzie (String County), B Rebet Brewster.

String County), E Sampson (String County), B Rebet Brewster.

Brewster.

String County), E Sampson (String County), B Rebet Brewster.

Brewster.

String County), E Sampson (String County), B Rebet Brewster.

Brewster.

Co-OPTIMISTS: A Donaldson (Currie): Gone (Cu • There are two important

ANGLO-SCOT3: G Ainchison (Newcastle University): N Gracian (London Scottish), D Cashle (Gloucester). R Macien (Moseley). L Remwick (London Scottish), D Millerd (London Scottish), D Millerd (London Scottish); P Jones (Gloucester), Gala and Hawick v Jed-Forest. **POOLS FORECAST** 

## come one of the European giants, a status, he believed, which was conferred by only one achievement: winning the European Cup. To this end, Tapie was prepared to spend lavishly. **OVERSEAS RESULTS**



ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Argentinos Juriera 1, Deportivo Manchyu û; Chaco For Ever 0, Deportivo Manchyu û; Chaco For Ever 0, Deportivo Español 2: Estudiarries 0, Girmansia 0; Rosenio Central 0, Ferro 1; River Plate 1, Velez Santialed 2; Anderon (1) Plate 1, Velez Santialed 2; Anderon (1) Plate 1, Languag 0; Linico (1) Plateras 4; Huracan 0, Racing Cub 0; Talleras 4; Huracan 0, Racing Cub 0; Talleras 4; Huracan 0, Racing Cub 0; Characan (1) Plateras 4; Huracan 0, Racing Cub 0; Apolicon 1, Doca Drama 0; Aris 3, PASS 1; Newer 5 1. Landing positions: 1, Newell's Old Boys, 28pts (champions); 2, River Plate 3, Velez 24.

BELGIAN CUP: Eighath-Banale: Andertecht 0, Bruges 2; Antwerp 2, Hoogstraten 0; Lommelse 0, Racing Machin 0 (Lommelse wins 6-7 on pens).

DITCH LEAGUE: Fortuna Sittard 1, Hearstneen 0, Williams 0, District 1, Vilosos Artheon 1, Rod 3, Leading positions: 1, PSS 1, Leading positions: 1, PSS 1, Particle 3, Atheritic, played 15, 25pts; 2, Alax, 13, 22; 3, Groningen, 15, 27.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Caen 0, Marsellies 0; Montpellier 2, Monsco 1; Life 0, Borteaux 0, Leading positions: 1, St. Patrick's Athletic, played 16, 24pts; 2, Cork City, 16, 24; 3, Sigo 16, 24pts; 2, Cork C

More change at Marseilles

THE soap operatics of French football continued at the week-football continued at the week-fo relationship with Tapie began to manifest itself in a series of public disagreements. Mar-seilles lost three of their first six league matches as Beckenbauer were rather unluckily beaten by sought to impose himself.

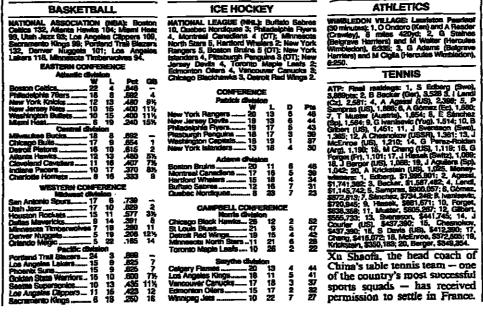
He changed the team's forma-tion and while he was an enthusiastic admirer of Waddle, he seemed less enthusiastic about Stojkovic, who in any case missed several games through a long-standing knee injury. But it says something about his players, that they never lost the top position in the the championship in each of his two years in charge. Under his care, Marseilles played 107 matches and lost only 13 but that was not enough for the ambitious club president, Bernard Tanie league and progressed smoothly to the quarter-finals of the European Cup.

Nevertheless Tapie was beginning to make ominous noises and when, on December 9, Marseilles were beaten 4-0 by Auxerre, their closest chal-lengers, Beckenbauer's depar-

And so it proved, with the announcement last weekend that Beckenbauer was to con-tinue only as technical director, not as coach. Almost at once it was reported that he would end his two-year contract a year early. He drops the reins as coach, just where he picked them up, with the team four points clear at the top after a coallest draw with Can on goalless draw with Caen on Sunday. His replacement? Who else but Goethals.

It says something about the state of the game in France that the latest twist in the Marseilles saga tended to obscure an incident on Saturday night which would have dominated the headlines elsewhere. The first division match between Toulon and Paris Saint-Ger-main was abandoned after 40 minutes because a linesman was injured by a missile thrown

## FOR THE RECORD



# 1 Arsensi v Sheff Utd 2 Covertry v Norwich 1 Everton v Derby 1 Laeds v Wimbledon X Luton v Chelses 1 Man Utd v A Villa X Soton v Tottenham Not on coupons: Crystal Palace v Liverpool (Sun-day); Nottingham Forest v Manchester City; Queen's Park Rangers v SECOND DIVISION 1 Blackburn v Oxford 1 Brighton v Leicester X Bristol C v Mitdilesbro 1 Hull v Barneley 1 ipswich v Chariton X Newcastle v Notts Co 1 Plymouth v Bristol R 1 Sheff Wed v Portsmouth X Wasterd v Swindon 2 Wast Bronn v Wolves 1 West Ham v Port Vale



THIRD DIVISION

# Two strings to the Brooks bow

dinner. "Desert Orchid has those conditions." two to beat in the King George," he said, "Celtic Shot tends to be tapped for speed and finds it difficult to hold

on Kempton Park yesterday Day spectacular for Fred Win- Gold Cup trip will suit him." ter for the second time in

ing Espy when the ground was help him. Over three miles on the firm side but the more they are going that bit slower rain that falls the better it will so he can become the one with be for Celtic Shot. Both horses the cruising speed. The danger when they had their pipeopeners this morning John their feet early on. Their Francome was on Celtic Shot jumping has to hold them and Jo Winter on Espy. They came up the gallops side by side and the riders reported that both horses were jumping

Most observers would line near nine-year-old is reaching position, only 1 llb inferior.

his prime as a chaser. "Never mind the ratings,
A quick and accurate the form book says he is his prime as a chaser.

a backward Garrison Savan-2lb from Jenny Pitman's 20 lengths.

And as the rain lashed down his position in the early stages. "Everyone was disappointed King George VI Rank Chase The further Celtic Shot goes since Pendil won the Boxing the better and I am sure the

season have all been over "Two days ago I was fancy- three miles. "The longer trips were in tremendous shape for him and horses like him comes when they are run off together or they lose momentum.

Brooks also mounts a spirited defence of what many would view as a flight of fancy in nominating Espy as a up behind Celtic Shot as the danger. Espy is ranked only one most likely to upset 47th among Britain's chasers Desert Orchid's attempt to by Timeform, some 35lb bewin a fourth King George. A hind Desert Orchid, com-champion hurdler in 1988, the pared with Celtic Shot's fourth

jumper, the dark bay was entitled to take his chance. He ssive in his first two beat Comandante first time wins this season, but did not out and was unlucky when please the critics when beating second on a return visit to Newbury. And the only time nah by seven lengths at he has run over three miles, at Haydock when in receipt of Ascot last season, he won by

A query about the trainer's "It was a bit disappointing, possible soundness of judge-but it was bad ground," ment was fielded with the Brooks said. "Celtic Shot had aplomb expected from a onequickened to go and win his time applicant for the post of

racing who is more pessimistic

A spectacular gallop last
Thursday reinforced the trainer's conviction. "He went like longer afford an managed longer Over 21/2 miles, Celtic Shot than Tim Forster." a bomb with Wolfhangar on Brooks was leaning towards when Sabin Du Loir beat him Peter Walwyn's Faringdon the chances of Celtic Shot as over 2½ miles at Cheltenham. Road gallop. It is a stiff mile Uplands attempts to gain its But I made it the best perfor- and a half and Espy finished first victory in this afternoon's mance of his life over that trip. on the bridle. They tell me Grundy was the last horse to

end up with no racing."

Horses that go swimming two

or three times a week must be

fitter than those that don't.

They are able to have the extra

work without putting too

Of the men that Brooks has

much strain on their legs."

do that. In the past Espy's jumping Celtic Shot's three wins this has been suspect but, in Brooks's opinion, the criti-cism has been overdone. "He's jumped well in his last two races and seems to be full of confidence. There is no race in the world for which he should be 40-1."

Discussing the likely tactics of what is sure to be a cutthroat affair, the trainer went on: "They are going to go a right good gallop. Desert Orchid must be the one we have to beat. It would be very foolish to say he is not the horse he was.

And about the rest of the opposition. "Toby Tobias must be the other danger. I saw The Fellow win in France and wasn't impressed. Nick The Brief must improve on his Haydock run and could go well As for Sabin Du Loir, hopefully he will be running out of stamina in the last half

worked with, the three that he In the current cold ecoadmires the most are Fred nomic climate, hard times lie Winter, John Francome and Barry Allan, the blood-test expert. "As individuals, they ahead for trainers. Despite his apparently laid-back attitude, have nothing in common, but they have all been outstanding the old Etonian is well aware of the score, having taken out a mortgage to buy Uplands professionally. The governor's from Fred Winter. chief asset is determination, "Ever since Lord Rosebery and his friends gave the just like Peter Scudamore.

CHARLIE Brooks was in a race at the third last and you fighting mood as he prepared can't keep stepping up the to tuck into his Christmas gallop all the way to the line in more I am the only man in dien of a Tote monopoly, the tematic brain and is not dien to the line in the way to the line in more I am the only man in dien of a Tote monopoly, the tematic brain and is not dien to the line in the lin dice have been heavily loaded. always looking to the obvious.

"So much more is being learnt all the time that expert knowledge is doubling every recently. Owners can no knowledge is doubling every longer afford an unprofitable ten years. A trainer, just like hobby so they are gradually any other professional, has got dropping out and let's face it, to keep looking for an edge. if you have no owners, you Life is so competitive that if you don't go forward, you don't stand still, you go On the same theme. Brooks

pointed out that three years ago not a stable was available From an early age, Brooks was dreaming about racing. in the Lambourn area. "That's why Michael Bell went to "When I went for an interview Newmarket. But now 50 per for Oxbridge, I'd hardly got cent would be on the market if over the threshold before the wanted. The recession works man said: "Mr Brooks, I hear all the way down. I've got an you think about nothing but owner who owes me so much racing. Our talk was soon money that if I don't get it, it over

will be my profit gone for the year. But he, in his turn, is also After joining the legendary Fred Winter as a stable lad, owed money by other people. Brooks became assistant when "Competition in racing has Oliver Sherwood left the yard to start training on his own never been keener. Martin Pipe is the man you just have account. A reasonably succto study. He's got such a forward-looking mind and pays so much attention to essful career as an amateur jockey included a victory on detail. His horses are so fit. Foxhunters Challenge Cup. I'm sure having your own swimming pool is important. Make or break time arrived

when Celtic Shot was due to run in the 1988 Champion Hurdle. The incapacitated Winter still held the licence but Brooks had been in charge for the whole season. "That win was pretty important and I like to think that many of the owners stayed with us because

To do well at his job remains Brooks's driving ambition. "At this stage of my life, it is very important that I'm a successful racehorse trainer. I can't do more than give it everything I've got. But the one thing I couldn't bear to be is a failure."



Rising stars: Charlie Brooks primes Celtic Shot for the King George VI Rank Chase

### NEWTON ABBOT

### Selections By Mandarin

12.15 Tiber River. 12.45 William Anthony. 1.15 Miss Chalk. 1.45 Iveagh House. 2.15 Tipp Down. 2.45 Huntworth. 3.15 Patrol Leader.

### Going: good to soft

12.15 SOUTH-WEST RACECOURSES SERIES NOVICES CHASE (Div I: amateurs: round V: 22,476:

8 232J TEBER RIVER 12 (B.BF.G) C Brooks 6-11-6 J Durken (5 9 G/PF PRETTY PANTOES 19 N Mitchell 6-11-1

11-10 Sonny HE Lad, 5-4 Tiber River, 11-2 Military Bend, 8-1 Levant Way, 14-1 Bonanza Rebel, 20-1 others. 1245 SOUTH-WEST RACECOURSES SERIES

NOVICES CHASE (Div II: amateurs: round V: 2113 HILARION 30 (D.SF.F.S) J Edwards 6-12-0 R Davies (7) /S11 WILLIAM ANTHONY 4 (G.S) M Pips 8-12-0.... A Walter FFF/ DANISH PAUPER 688 B Scrives 9-11-6... B Foster (7) (RSS) HTV 9 SACH 12 Bell Proving 9-11-6... C Resear (7)

7-4 William Anthony, 5-2 Hillerion, 6-1 Country Diery, 8-1 Royal Hero, 10-1 Holy Show, 14-1 Cape Menton, 20-1 others. 1.15 CHRISTMAS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

1 9-85 GOLD 'N SOFT 29 (V,CD,Q,S) J O'Shes 6-11-10

2 POS HOLME HALE 22 (B) J Belor 4-11-5. S Modgeon (7) 3 4-50 TROLAN SONO 19 (7-5) R Frost 6-11-5. C Hopward 4 5643 RAMROD 12 (B,D,F) R Hodges 5-11-2 T Thompson (7) 5 //IP- PORATURE 494 (CD,F) J Belory 5-11-1 ........ M Bookly 6 200- SICELIAN SWING 252 Mrs S Williams 5-11-0

P. P. S. HIGH LAWS 25 Wifers Price 6-11-0

8 2335 DOUBLE HANDFULL 25 J Roberts 4-10-7

9 104- MISS CHALK 184F D.S) M Pice 4-10-6 D Rict
10 -640 E-MEE 53 R Brazington 5-10-5

11 9/0 DECCAN PRINCE 238 R Hodges 6-10-4

12 043- ORIENTAL DREAM 254 F Yardey 6-10-4

13 40/P AFRICAN OPERA 19 S TUTON 6-10-1 G Upton (3)
14 0P-0 PHOEBE MERYLL ST J Paritit 4-10-0 R Greece (7)
15 PF-5 CRESP NOTE 4 J Cut 6-10-0 N Columns
18 0440 KIND OF MAGIC 27 A Josept 5-10-0 N TROOMS (7)
17 -PSF LATERAL 23 J Brading 6-10-0 N Mann (3)
18 04-0 RENJAMIN (ANCASTER 50 T Halled 6-10-0 A Webb 3-1 Miss Chalk, 5-1 Remrod, 6-1 Holme Hale, 7-1 others. 1.45 THURLESTONE HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,905: 2m 150yd) (14)

3 /60- MICHT MOVE 250 (CD,Q,S) M Pipe 7-11-5 4 -315 STAR SEASON 35 (O.BF,CLS) R Holder 6-11-2 \*\*MON-RUINNER 4 -315 STAR SEASON 35 (O.BF,CLS) R Holder 6-11-2 \*\*Maint (5)

Selections

By Mandarin

MASTER OF THE HOUSE SEF M Hattmond 4-11-7

2 2000 SVELTISSIMA 27 (8) G Okroyd 4-11-7 R Gentley 3 1100 DALMORE 16 (B.CD,F.G) F Watson 4-11-5 J O'Gorman (2)

5-2 Leven Baby, 4-1 Kenndabil, Amazake, 6-1 others.

1.15 JAMES FLETCHER MARQUEES HANDICAP

UNDLE (E1,70%, E11, 71), (-), 1 4961 TRARSE 4 (D,Q) W Bergey 5-12-5 (Sec) J Calleghes (3)

2 /05 SEAN BOY 25 (CD.F.Q) M H Easterby 12-11-10
1. McRaney (
1. McRan

71 490- MAW SROON 257 (5) Miss A Akkin 7-10-0 R Hodge (7) 12 0-06 ALL OVER THE WORLD 71 (7) J Fort 6-10-0

N Smith (5)

6 3350 CONTACT KELVIN 47 (D,G,S) N Bycroft 8-10-13

HURDLE (£1,964: 2m 4f) (15)

Going: good

SEDGEFIELD

## 10 3351 MAATELL 15 (D.F.Q) N Michael 7-10-0 Standards (7 10 3351 MAATELL 15 (D.F.Q.) N Michael 7-10-0 A West 11 -1008 KEYNES 27 (D.F.Q.S) T Heilest 10-10-0 W Invita 12 -3F1 TRUSSS 79 (CD.F.) Nits J Flotter 5-10-0 J Short C Hoperood 14 -626 CURICUS FEELING 12 (CD,F) J Bosley 4-10-0 2.15 ALSTON HALL NOVICES HANDICAP HUR-

7 2113 NEAGH HOUSE 37 (0,0,5) Mrs. J Please 4-10-9

DLE (£2,220: 2m 5f 110yd) (16) 1 -182 CACHE FLEUR 7 (7.5) M Pipe 4-12-0 für F Mounter (7) 2 -125 EAST RIVER 30 (F) G Baiding 6-11-7 ... We \$ Mattles 3 30-4 GOLDEN SOUNTA 25 M Mutgent/ge 5-11-2 ... W Index 4 FF-5 ITS MEARLY TIME 20 Mrs R Brackenbury 7-11-2

6 0025 PURPLE POINT 19 (V,RF) D Surgos 5-10-12

12 -064 RUN AGAIN 16 M Brackstock 5-10-4 ... M P Picoparaid
13 P-FP INCRPPION 46 A J Watern 5-10-3 ... A Webb
14 -046 WISEAL PROSPER 21 G Roseh 5-10-0 ... J Shorts
15 055- DRESS UP 224 N April 6-10-0 ... M Kinese
16 -030 EVENING RAIN 4 R Hodges 4-10-0 ... T Thompson (7)
7.2 South Mean

45 LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL LIMITED HANDI-CAP CHASE (£3,854: 3m 2f 100yd) (8)

1 -110 VON CSADEK 32 (D,8) Miss H Knight 6-11-10 2 3292 SEAGRAM 19 (CD,F,C,S) D Barons 10-11-9 2 3212 HUNTWORTH 28 (COLF,A,S) N Pipe 10-11-8 Mr.A Walter 

6 PUS FAIR CHILD 39 (D.F.C.S) D Muttay Smith 10-10-15
7 /1-U LONGRIVER LADY 11 (C.Q.S) R Holder 7-10-0
8 /E.P. PADDY HILDY A E St. I Homested VALOUR (S) 8 /S-P PADDY BUCK 4 (F,S) J Honeytest 10-10-0.... 5-2 Von Caedek, 11-4 Huntworth, 3-1 Seagram, 9-2 Longstver Lady, 8-1 Last House, 16-1 others.

3.15 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,626; 2m 50yd) (16)

1 0/5 BARGE 80Y 313 J OM 8-11-0 N Columns
2 -005 BCN 41 Mrs A Knight 4-71-0 Q Knight
3 0P BRINO BEAR 12 Mrs P Dutled 5-11-0 Mr R Date (7)
4 CAPITAL PUNISHMENT 27 Mrs F Wishiyn 4-11-0
P Vector (3)

2-1 Patrol Leader, 5-2 Capital Punishment, 5-1 Postic Gern, 10-1 Man From Mars, 14-1 Others.

1.45 RENT ROLL CUP HANDICAP CHASE (22,196: 1 1423 UNEX-PLANED 15 (9F,CD,CLS) G Moore 7-12-0 2 PS-0 JODY'S BOY 15 (B,CD,F,O,S) R Swiers 9-11-13 3 2FU1 VALENTINOS JOY 18 (D.F.Q.S) G Oktoyd 11-10-10
4 41F3 J J. Jimmy 6 (CD.F.Q.S) B Elison 8-10-10 P Middley (7)
5 25F3 PEACEWORK 41 (D.F. Mix G Reveley 6-10-0 S Storey

12.45 Leven Baby. 1.15 Miami Bear. 1.45 Un-Explained. 2.15 Decent Man. 2.45 Norton Warrior. 3.15 Skolern. 5-4 J J. Jimmy, 2-1 Unex-Plained, 3-1 Valentinos Joy, 7-1 scework, 20-1 Jody's Boy. 2.15 GUS CARTER NOVICES CHASE (22,356: 2m 12.45 MORDON NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE

2 -422 DECENT MAN 22 (8) P Genumot 7-11-6. P Magnot (7)
2 -422 DECENT MAN 22 (8) P Genumot 7-11-6. P A Family
3 SSP0 PRONTING PRIESH 15 W A Surphenson 6-11-8 B Serving
4 F3-F MARSER 34 Fby Robinson 7-11-6. D Condels
5 22-P MR THERM 33 M W Esstarby 5-11-6. C Ryan (7)
6 /2F-PRIESH SIAMD 4SS P Blockley 8-11-6. Ryan (7)
7 -600 PRINCE CEVA 27 G Richards 5-11-6. M Molenny (9)
9 42P- WAYSEE 375 V Thompson 6-11-6. M Molenny (9)
9 42P- WAYSEE 375 V Thompson 6-11-6. A Origoly
10 00-P MANSETTC PLAYER 43 Danys Smith 6-11-1. 

11 00-8 VALIANT STAR 12 (6) M Hammond 4-10-8 J Calleghen (4) 11-10 Decent Man, 7-2 Fighting Finish, 5-1 Mr Therra, 8-1 Icate, 12-1 Prince Cave, Marsir, 20-1 others.

2.45 BRADBURY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,427; 3m

3 2011 NORTON WARRIOR 15 (V,CU,CLS) M H SHEEP'S 13-8 The Metitin, 15-8 Norton Warfor, 7-2 Bonnie Artist, 11-2 High Edge Grey, 25-1 Cool Brew.

3.15 ST STEPHEN HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,748: 2m) (11)

7 F/6 SALACITY 23 (0.2) G Moore 5-10-1 \_\_ J Calleghee (3) 8 4914 FULL MONTY 28 (C.D.F) Denys Stella 4-10-0 9 -162 WINDWARD ARROW 15 (D,F) O Topley 4-10-0 F 10 -300 OUTSTANDING BILL 22 (CD,F) J Jedenson 4-10-0

17 /4- LOG CABRI 406 (D,S) B Elfect 9-10-0 ... P Michier (7) 9-4 Whitwood, 11-4 Houghton, 6-1 Salacity, 7-1 others.

EUNIINGDON **Selections** By Mandarin 12.30 Drumbead. 1.0 Wide Boy. 1.30 Singlesole. 2.0 Peadennis. 2.30 Buddy Holly. 3.0 Muirfield

Going: good to soft 12.30 ST IVO NOVICES HURDLE (DIV 1: 22,010: 2m 1 9-16 AFTER THE NUMBER 22 (8) (3 Sharwood 5-11-7

7 6 DRUMERAD 22 (V) F Wahryn 6-11-0 R Roses
8 9 EASTER MOY 606 M Bradelock 6-11-0 R Roses
9 BATTERCLED E Eldin 6-11-0 P Holley (S)
10 822- Ren VENGETTE 256 N Honorano 6-11-0 S Banth Eccles
11 6/ MORLE RISE 981F J Bostock 7-11-0 Miles S Margelreyd
12 9821 SCOLE 6 F Marphy 5-11-0 B Arbert (S)
14 POR- VAASCORIT 219 (F) A Reld 8-11-0 M Arbert (S)
15 ALBON SORIE 828F K Wangrove 4-10-0 W Exterfield
16 US-0 BARTRYN 61 Mrs J Crott 5-10-0 W Homphreys
17 9 BRSS SARAJANE 23 R Hollinghed 5-10-0
Gary Lycos (S)

2m 200yd) (2) 1 1/3 WIDE BOY 14 (F.S) P Balley 8-11-12... S Smith Eccion 2 0600 TOCHENKA 4 Mrs J Groft 6-10-6............. W Hamplareys 1-4 Wide Boy, 7-2 Tochenics.

1.30 ST IVO NOVICES HURDLE (Div I): \$2.010: 2m

## MARKETRASEN

Selections By Mandarin 12.45 Laurie-O. 1.15 Some Do Not. 1.45 They All Forgot Me. 2.15 West Ender. 2.45 Vulvory's Clown. 3.15 Skeletor.

Going: good to soft (soft patches) 12.45 BRUCE CARR MEMORIAL TROPHY CHASE (£2,678: 3m) (8 runners)

 1 B-11 LAURIE-O SE (F.S.) NES G Reveloy 8-11-13. P Pitrop
 2 4511 FIGHTING JESSICA 11 (D.G.) J Upon 5-11-12 2nd parl
 3 45-3 IN THE STREEZ 11 (F) P Blockley 9-11-3. C Reflect
 4-42 DECENT MAN 22 (S) P BRUSHORS 7-11-5.
 20 500 FM S DREAM 21 Mrs S LEDYMEN 7-11-5.

 2 Totale 6 /27- KILCLOONEY FORMEST 250 O Britisan 8-11-6

7 PS33 REMEMBER JOSH 33 R Tate 6-11-5... Mr M Wilson (7) 8 PG-P LYNGRIGEN 12 M Chapman 4-10-5... W Workington 4-5 Laurie-C, 3-1 (Sictioney Forrest, 8-1 in The Breeze, 10-lemember Josh, 12-1 Eborneszer's Dreem, 16-1 others. 1.15 RACING POST NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier:

£2,740: 2m 8f) (10) 1 P-P4 ATTRACTIVE 29 M Robinson 6-11-2 BRANKEY EDGE W Perin 6-11-2 CRAFTY COPPER 29 (6) K Burle 6-11-2 GOOD AFTERNOON 602 (8) R Too 10-11-2 5 -P25 HEY RAWLEY 15 (2) Mrg Q Reveloy 5-11-2 P Weets
8 /2P PRESON SELAND 465 P Brookley 5-11-2 P Weets
8 /2P PRESON SELAND 465 P Brookley 5-11-2 C Kallett
7 P2P- SOME PO NOT 262 (F) M Menderson 6-11-2 D Byrne
8 00-0 STORENT'S MAD 12 J Leoh 6-11-2 W Worthington
9 522- YORK SMPERAL 278 B 60-9 11-2 MF P Gee
10 0/ WHITINGHAM VALE SF M Chipteen 7-10-11
W Worthington
4-6 Some Do Net 9-2 May Share Share Share Do Net 9-2 May Share Share Do Net 9-2 May Share Share Do Net 9-2 May Share Shar

4-5 Some Do Not. 9-2 Hey Rawley, 6-1 York Imperial, 6-1 ractive, 10-1 Crafty Copper, 14-1 others. 1.45 NOEL SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (21,772:

1 315 ADELINE LYNN 12 (BF.S.) N Thider 4-11-10 M Branuan
2 5150 THEY ALL FORDOTT ME 5 (B) T Casey 3-11-1 P Nives
3 P-PO ARRESE 39 R PRECOCK 4-10-12
4 1PPO JACOUELINE'S GLEN 22 (F) J Parlies 4-10-11
5 1254 LAPKADO SF (CO.F) M Chapman 3-10-10 D Byrms
6 4439 EVENING SINGET SC (V) Mass G Rese 4-10-9
7 3065 LOVELY WONGA 15 (D.F) D Wilson 4-10-7 J A Hants
8 400 VALLANT VICAR 15 (B) C Thornton 3-10-5
9 UO-P BREEZY SALCIN 29 (V) IT Thornton 14-10-4
B Delton (7)

10 R340 BCHO ORE 18 K McCauley 4-10-4 B Delton (7)
10 R340 BCHO ORE 18 K McCauley 4-10-4 C Describ (3)
11 FF0P SHAMPAYAR 12 (8) 8 Careford 4-10-1 J J Guinn
12 DOSF PHARLY PRZ 25 J Weimeright 3-10-1 J J Guinn
13 B036 ASTRID GR.BERTO BF 8 Richmond 5-10-0 T James
14 DUG RRE DOLID 21 W PRINT 3-10-0 S Curren (7)
15 R040 MY LINDIANNE 19 J Dooler 3-10-0 R History
8-4 Adelina Lwn. 7-2 The AF Emilianne R History

9-4 Adeline Lynn, 7-2 They All Forgot Me, 11-2 Latitadio, 8-1 Evening Sunset, 10-1 Fire Gold, 12-1 others. 2.15 KILVINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,366: 2m 6f) (13)

1 100- HELL STREET 284 (C.F.Q.S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-12-0 2 47/ CREEN STEPS 704 (C.D.D.S.) J.Gover 5-11-3 J.J. Culess 3 804- TABERUA LORG 201 (D.G.S.) A.J. Wilson 9-10-10 

54 STORYBOOK 21 N Henderson 5-11-0... S Smith Section 5-51-0... S Smith Section 5-55 TOP VILLARI S7 A Turnel 4-11-0.................. L Lawrence 60) CHATTY CORNER 577 C Brooks 5-10-9 C Dempsey (7) EP RUBNIKA 35 H Hollinshead 4-10-9...... Gary Lynns (3) Montagment 4-1 Section County 5 3-1 Montagnard, 4-1 Extra Grand, 6-1 Singlesole, 7-1 nese-H, 8-1 De Profundis, 10-1 Petham Suita, 12-1 others. 2.0 EBF CHATTERIS INTERMEDIATE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,364: 2m 4f) (6)

2 PF0 BEECHSOUNT LAD 7 C Triedine 6-12-0... D Poole (7) S-FR3 GOOD TONC 11 (F.0.5) T Etherispon 7-12-0 Poole (7) S-FR3 GOOD TONC 11 (F.0.5) T Etherispon 7-11-3 R Gover 4-391 EARL SCHAM 28 (CD.6) F Murphy 7-10-3... D Neighty 5-2113 HLARION 30 (D.BF.F.S) J Etheris 6-10-3... 2nd greef 5-7625 FORCED BLARCH 14 (2) G Beiding 6-10-0

indennia, 7-2 Good Tonic, 9-2 Earl Scham, 5-1 ich, 20-1 Beschmourt Lad. 2.30 BOXING DAY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,616:

3 393- RED COLUMNIA 280 (D.S) K Wingrove 9-11-2

4 PS-4 ON THE TWIST 11 (CD,G,S) F Murphy 8-10-12 

10 63P- AH HELLO 266 (F) J Bostock 9-10-0 .....

5-2 Buddy Holly, 9-2 On The Twist, 5-1 Aberoy, 8-1 Flests nos, 7-1 John O'Dee, 8-1 Ickworth, 12-1 Others. 3.0 OUSE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,118; 2m 100yd)

1 154 MONE'S MISTAKE 27 (D,F,O,S) R Lee 8-11-12 2 /34- HUSTY LAW 359 (C.S) M Banks 8-11-3. D Sk 3 5125- HAJOR EFFORT 21 (C.F.G) G Baiding 5-11-3 4 9644 KINDYA SMART 21 (CD,F) K Morgan 5-10-11

ÁS Sanith (7) 5 -622 MURRIELD VILLAGE 12 (BF,G) S Dow 4-10-8... 6 4-21 CLOS DU BOIS 12 (D,G) Mrs N Macauley 4-10-4 7 /40 FLUTTER MONEY 4 (3,Q,S) Miss (3 Dollar 6-10-4 R Boacher (7) 8 10-4 NORTHERN BARRY 29 (D,F) J McConnockle 6-10-2

9 14-F IMMORTAL IRISH 12 (D,F) D Gendolfo 5-10-0 10 P1-S HOWJAL 12 (D,G) J Bostock 5-10-0 Ries S Margatroyd
11 JP- PORTER MAN 381 (D,S) E Crawford 9-10-0
J McLaughilla 11-4 Muirfield Village, 7-2 Northern Barry, 9-2 Major Effort,

9 119- FIFTH ATTEMPT 244 (F,S) P Feignts 8-10-0... 10 00-6 THREEOUTOFFOUR 37 (S) O Brenner 5-10-0 

13 SOP- DRY GIN 417 (F,S) M Chapman 7-10-0 W Worshington 11-10 Hall Street, 7-2 Taberna Lord, 7-1 West Ender, 8-1 Far Senior, Green Stepe, 12-1 Fifth Attempt, 14-1 others. 2.45 C F RAWLINSON FINE DRAINAGE HAND-1 -231 VULRORY'S CLOWN 19 (C.F.C.S) O Brennan 12-12-0

2 FFG- SAWDUST JACK 249 (S) M W Easterby 6-11-9 3 -2F1 DEADLINE 27 (0,5) J Leigh 7-10-0 D Bytne 10-11 Vistory's Clown, 5-4 Sawdust Jack, 7-1 Deadline. 3.15 MISTLETOE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,539: 2m

6 210- HAPPYCATS 294 Jimmy Fitzgeridd 5-10-10 D Byrne 7 O- KESLEY 283 Jimmy Fitzgeridd 5-10-10 D Byrne 7 O- KESLEY 283 Jimmy Fitzgeridd 5-10-10 W Dwen (7) 8 O MASTER BUSTER 87 C Switch 5-10-10 Mr M Renger (7) MIGHTY MICHAEL K Burto 4-10-10 T Jervis 10 POCOR FARMER 80 P Biockley 4-10-10 C Kellett 11 S 3AGACTY 32 Jimph 4-10-10 M Bromman 12 0P TRIALY SHAWATT 43 JYOUNG 5-10-10 J Table (7) 13 00/ CHATTY CORNER 87 C Brooks 6-10-5 2nd prof 14 -POU SECOND AWARD 32 J Leigh 5-10-6 J J Callen 9-4 Stedent, 3-1 Gymbrak Starrion, 4-1 March 14 Journal 14 Jimph 15-10-6 J J Callen 14 JOUR 15-10-10 J Table (7) 14 J Table (7) 15 J Callen 14 J J Callen 15 J Callen 15 J Callen 16 J J Callen 16 J Callen 17 J Callen 18 J Callen 9-4 Skeletor, 3-1 Gymtrak Stantom, 4-1 Huppycets, 6-1 Fight Hill, 8-1 Dare Dago, 10-1 Mighty Michael, 12-1 others,

## Course specialists

NEWTON ABBOT: Traiters: D Bloomfield, 4 winners from runners, 50.0%; M Pipe, 138 from 415, 33.2%; C Brooks, from 13, 23.1%; R Holder, 20 from 101, 19.8%; J Edwards, from 43, 18.5%; D Murray Smith, 3 from 18, 18.7%, Jockeys: N Mann, 5 wanes from 17 rides, 29.4%; A Webb, 13 from 77, 18.9%; N Coleman, 15 from 118, 12.7%; M Bosley, 4 from 38, 11.1%; N Hawks, 6 from 58, 10.3%. (Only qualifiers). 11.1%; N Hawke, 6 from 58, 10.3%. (Only quamers). HRNTINGDON: Trainers: F Murphy, 4 winners from 14 numers, 28.6%; M Banks, 4 from 17, 23.5%; J Edwards, 11 from 48, 22.5%; O Sherwood, 13 from 51, 21.3%; N Henderson, 14 from 58, 20.6%; G Baiding, 18 from 58, 20.5%; A Jackeyse: J Ratton, 6 winners from 23 rides, 26,1%; S Smith Eccles, 21 from 100, 21.0%; R Rows, 18 from 114, 15.6%; R Guest, 8 from 72, 11.1%; W Hamphreys, 3 from 27, 11.1%; (Only qualifiers).

(Only qualifiers).

MARKET RASSIN: Trainers: C Thornton, 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; C Brooks, 3 from 9, 33.3%; N Henderson, 5 room 18, 27.9%; T Tans, 3 from 11, 27.3%; N Trailer, 16 from 63, 25.4%; M H Easterby, 25 from 99, 25.3%, Jackeys: D Syms, 12 winners from 54 rides, 22.2%; J J Cultrn, 7 from 61, 13.7%; P Neven, 14 from 103, 13.5%, (Only qualifiers), 95 from 103, 25.5%; B Silson, 3 from 13, 23.1%; M H Easterby, 21 from 93, 22.5%; G Moore, 22 from 107, 20.6%; Mrs G Reveley, 35 from 174, 20.1%, Jackeys: A J Cultrn, 4 winners from 12 rides, 33.3%; D Crossman, 4 from 15, 25.7%; M MIS, 7 from 27, 25.5%; P Midgley, 6 from 30, 20.0%; R Garritty, 11 from 59, 18.6%; C Ryan, 3 from 20, 15.0%.

 Von Csadek is now likely to run in next year's Seagram Grand National. The eight-year-old's American owners were against letting the horse take part at Aintree, but Wantage trainer Heuricita Knight said yesterday that they have had a change of heart. "I think I've pursuaded them to change their minds. Von Csadek will miss Cheltenham and just have a small race somewhere between January and the big one,"

## Elsworth's words rally the faithful By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Elsworth was radiating grey, pointed out. "It was on confidence yesterday as Desert heavy ground that he won the confidence yesterday as Desert Orchid had his final exercise efore attempting to become the first horse to win this after-noon's King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton Park for the ourth time. "We took him out in a mini

gale this morning and he's in tremendous shape, absolutely spot on. I'll be surprised and disappointed if he doesn't win." Such strong words from the realistic Elsworth must surely hift the spirits of the faint hearted who were discouraged by Desert Orchid's last of four to Young Snugfit at Sandown, beaten a total of 20 lengths.

"Desert Orchid is not a myth, he's a racehorse. For the past unlikely. He wasn't ready to do

himself justice. "Apart from that, is there any horse in the country that could have given Young Snugfit 211b and beaten him over two miles? Sabin Du Loir could not and he

Just six days short of his twelfth birthday, Desert Orchid must inevitably soon be showing signs of his age. But the trainer countered: "Desert Orchid in the birth of the state of the sta chid is probably not getting any better but there's not much evidence that he's deteriorating.
He's on a plateau. It's probably
now a question of how quickly
he comes down from that level."
The heavy rain that has fallen

Gold Cup, and it was firm when he was beaten last year. The soft highlights a different part of his racing style. It puts the focus on

Despite the amount of rain that has fallen, the quick-drain-ing Sunbury track was reported to be in good condition by Michael Webster, the clerk of the course. "We've had half an inch of rain but its still only good. But it may be riding a bit softer tomorrow, particularly if we get any more rain.

course this morning before deciding whether to let Toby Tobias, last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup runner-up, take few months he's been aimed his chance. There must be a solely for the King George We much better chance of him would win, but knowing in our most of the night listening to the heart of hearts that it was rain falling. It was music to my most of the night listening to the cars."

Toby Tobias has not run since winning at Liverpool last April, "It could be a rough race with so many front runners. Toby is in pretty good shape but he'll be allowed to run his race and won't be knocked about if he gets tired."

In Somerset, Martin Pipe was putting to the finishing touches to his powerful Boxing Day team. "The King George is a tough race but I'm very hopeful for Sabin Du Loir. He's very well and I'm confident that he'll stay the extra half mile."

Reluctant as I am to desert Desert Orchid, Celtic Shot is reaching his prime as a chaser, I will be in Desert Orchid's favour take the former champion as Richard Burridge, the majority shareholder in the flying Orchid and Toby Tobias. dier to prove too good for Desert

### **Cheering News to make** his mark over timber From Our IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

DERMOT Weld, who won the outstanding novices of the cur

Boarding School by a length at the Curregh and the pair are due chestown. to renew rivalry in the Ir£12,000 Dennys Juvenile Hurdle at Leo-pardstown today.

Weld: Triumph hopes for Cheering News

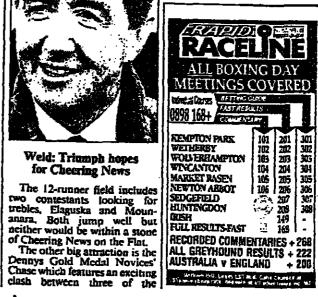
The 12-runner field includes two contestants looking for trebles, Elaguska and Mounanara. Both jump well but neither would be within a stone of Cheering News on the Flat.

DERMOT Weld, who won the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle at Chehrenham in March with Joyful Noise and Rook-Tee.

Rare Holiday, has already set his sights on a repeat success with Cheering News. He proved to be a useful three-year-old on the Flat, winning three of his four starts including two listed forces.

In the first of these he beat three starts so far, but was not In the first of these he beat three starts so far, but was not particularly impressive at Pun-

> Joyful Noise is another smart hurdler to make the grade over fences with two wins but at the weights the form selection has to be Rook-Tee. He meets Joyful Noise on 8lb better terms for a six lengths beating at Navan when returning after a long layoff and subsequently put up a bold display of jumping to beat Good For A Laugh on a return visit to Navan.



KEMPI

Bing: gcod MENAVEN NOVICES MURCULE 199 254

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THE COST AND THE CO BOT OWNER TO SERVICE T

LEBUTLIN'S FELTHAM NOVICES CH 

Bridge 11-10 March 12-12-3 Choose 1962 FRENCH DOGLIN 5 17-11

FORM FOCUS ARDERIN DOES ARE RESIDENCE OF THE STATE OF THE WET

> Sel  $100~{\rm geodes}~{\rm e^{i\omega_{\rm s}}}$ 1.30 Fight - Co 200 Old Applicack

30 BIRLING JACK going: good MORISTMAS HOVICES HUROLE (4-Y

STREET HAS NOVICES HURBLE (4-1)

GOTE FAR MORE SO (F. A WESSON) ROCKEY

1 RODED STAR ST [D.S]: J PARKDLY)

1 RODED STAR ST [D.S]: J PARKDLY)

1 RODED STAR ST [D.S]: J PARKDLY)

1 RODED STAR ST [D.S]: J PARKDLY

1 RODED STAR ST [D.S]: J PARKDLY STREE 94 ROYSI ESTIMATE 35 (0) (LEGY PARTIES 94 ROYSI ESTIMATE) 3-1 ROSSO SI ROSSO SI MARIANTI DOCTO SIMILA 15

1969: LINCLE ERINGE : 1-0 M DV BOROUGHBRIDGE NOVICES CHAS See STATE TIME 22 (B.DET) ID GB) J JOHN 121 DBB 121 DBB 1780, CS-1 PRICE 111-4 MONTHS 1989: CAPRICK HELL LAD 6-11-6

Course : TRAINERS

# Desert Orchid poised for record 2.20 King George vi rank Chase (Grade 1: £45,190:

AS HE did a year ago, Desert Orchid comes to the King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton Park this afternoon with a point to prove. Defeat in the Tingle Creek

Chase at Sandown earlier in the month has again raised doubts that his formidable powers are waning but I believe reports of his demise are exaggerated. Desert Or-chid is napped to win the King George for an unprecedented fourth time.

Certainly his task is more difficult than last season. His defeat at Sandown then was by only 2½ lengths, whereas on this occasion he was never dangerous in the second half of the race won by Young Spugfit.

On the face of it that was disappointing, but there was has never made any secret of reportedly went well in a sufficient against him to suggest that he can once more rise to to the big occasion here for his chid's principal objective and the control of the chid's principal objective and the chid objective regular parmer, Richard Dunwoody. The Sandown race was over two miles, a distance much too short for him. whereas this three miles on a course he clearly relishes will be much more to his taste.

casualty of advancing years and as he approaches his potent rivals, would prefer twelfth birthday Desert Or- softer ground even given the chid this season over shorter chid is no longer ideally recent rain. equipped to tackle specialists two-milers who challenge him

12.45 Classic Statement.

12.45 HAVEN NOVICES HURDLE (26,258: 2m) (22 runners)

33 CLASSIC STATEMENT AND THE CONTROL OF THE CONTROL

BETTING: 3-1 Geseld, 11-2 Bel Gises, 13-2 La Cionega, 7-1 Young Pokey, 8-1 Granvillewa ady Cherm, Shirkouk, New York Relations, 14-1 Gran Albe, Cassaic Statement, 16-1 others.

1989: TRIRYLAND 5-11-0 R Dunwoody (5-1) N Henderson) 17 ren

FORM FOCUS GAASID comfortably best Peace King (gave 4th) (it at Ascot 2m, nov. good to firm). La GENAGA 2nd beaten 201 by Tyrone Bridge (rec 4th) at Moverhempton (2m 4f, nov. good to woll), at Wolverhempton (2m 4f, nov. good to woll), at Wolverhempton (2m 4f, nov. good to woll), at Wolverhempton (2m 4f, nov. good to woll), beaten 3th by by GRANWILEWATERFORD (gave 5th) with 5YLVAN TEMPEST (rec 2th) 4th beaten 10%1 at Newton 10%1 for Story (2m 500), nov. good.

DEADLY CHARMI 5th beaten 201 by The Widget Man frec 3th) at Huntington (2m 100yd, hrow, good).

Selection: Child Of The Mits (rec 7th) with CLASSIC STATEMENT (rec 7th) with CLASSIC STATEMENT (rec 7th) with CLASSIC STATEMENT (rec 7th) of nowed plonty of promise when staying on 3rd beaten 1%1 at Worces-Inches (2m, nov. good).

Jester (2m, nov. good).

1.15 BUTLIN'S FELTHAM NOVICES CHASE (Grade I: £23,330: 3m) (7

1989: FRENCH GOBLIN 6-10-11 Peter Hobbs (15-8 fav) J Gifford 7 mm

FORM FOCUS ARDBRIN best Mortimoore (rec 7th) 81
easily at Heydock (2m 41, now ch, good to 5oR).

GOPPERITE was unlucky after failing 2 cut when clear and presented the race to Al Jeff (event) at Chepetow (2m 41, ch, good); cerier best Pacific Sound (gave 1th) 201 at Wohenhampson (2m 41, now ch, good). Tolk TROUBADOUR best Turplin's Green (tereis) 25t at Wincenton (2m 41, now ch, good to 8mm). MORLEY STREET jumped to the

WEIGHERBY - 5

1.00 Rodeo Star.

Going: good

Selections

By Michael Seely

3.00 BIRLING JACK (nap). 3.35 Le Temeraire.

BETTING: 9-4 Royal Estimate, 3-1 Rodeo Star, 11-2 Lowlands, 10-1 Far More, 12-1 Polar Region, bie-Washis, 14-1 Dawasan, Doctor Syntax, 16-1 others.

1989: UNICLE ERINGE 11-0 M Owyer (7-4 law) Jimmy Pitzgerald 16 ran

1982; CARRICK HILL LAD 6-11-8 N Doughty (8-13 fav) G Richards 7 ran

1.30 BOROUGHBRIDGE NOVICES CHASE (£4,736: 3m 100yd) (8 runners)

ons Ltd) N Tickter 11-0

1.0 CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,884: 2m) (16 runners)

2.30 Leigh Boy.

3.00 Durham Edition. 3.35 Blacksburg.

.. G Hericor N Doughly ... K Jacos

Lik K Johann

J Surton (7) — ... L O'Hard (5) — 99 Richardson (7) 78 ... D Wildman — 5 No Citi (5) —

BETTING: 11-10 Mortey Street, 4-1 Ardbrin, 9-2 Sparkling Flams, 7-1 Copports, 10-1 Tom Trout 16-1 Man On The Line, 33-1 Shah's Choice.



Elsworth, who knows the Cheltenham Gold Cup, with horse so well, has no peer at Desert Orchid four lengths

The opposition is stronger than last year, when Desert Orchid started an odds-on Pace is usually the first favourite, but Celtic Shot and Toby Tobias, two of his most

KEMPTON PARK

Selections By Mandarin

Michael Seely's selection: 2.20 Celtic Shot.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.20 DESERT ORCHID.



Elsworth and Dunwoody reunited as Desert Orchid attempts to win a record fourth King George

preparing a runner primed to away third, and he already the minute. year's Gold Cup. There is no doubting his quality but the lack of a previous outing

cannot be in his favour. Sabin Du Loir has twice finished ahead of Desert Ortrips but he will have his work Celtic Shot, a former cham- cut out to complete that part-

opinion that The Fellow is superior to Nupsala is correct, another chance. The Fellow cannot be dis-

zi lightly. But Desert Orchid has made Kempton Park on Boxing Day his own. There could be no more appropriate setting for him to prove that we have not yet heard the last of him. The improving Wonder

While the King George brings together the established top flight, the Buthn's Fel-tham Novices' Chase stages a cracking meeting of future stars. Ardbrin, Morley Street and Sparkling Flame are the three main protagonists, and I give Morley Street the opportunity to redeem his reputation after a surprise defeat at

York, in October with ease, larger English fences with an Jack prefers it softer while emphatic win at Worcester. Bluff Knoll, though progres-

He was then beaten by sive, is stepping up in class. Remittance Man at Ascot, but cannot afford that generosity winner in October.

401 2F12-11 ARCTIC CALL 32 (B.CD,F,G,S) (B Stewart-Brown) D Sherwood 7-11-10 ....... J Osborne 78 (Royal blue, pink epauless, pink cap)
402 F61-111 CELTIC SHOT 14 (C.D.G.S) (D Horton) C Brooks 8-11-10 .......

Ardbrin and Sparkling Flame have both impressed in their brief careers over fences and could go right to the top. They will make it a stern test but Morley Street is taken to pass the examination.

Man should complete a treble in the Royal Garden Hotel Handicap Hurdle, while the consistent Laplaffe can gain an overdue reward in the Shearings Handicap Hurdle. At Wetherby, Durham Edi-tion can follow up last year's win in the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase. He is 19lb better off for an eight lengths-Ascot.

He won the Breeders' Cup season's Whitbread come compared to the Chase at Belmont Park, New at Sandown, and of his other rivals Bob Tisdall does not he was. Birling and began his career over the look the force he was, Birting

Arthur Stephenson, the traihis trainer, Toby Balding, ner of Durham Edition, is also attributed that setback to an strongly represented in the early mistake draining his Supermaster Handicap Chase confidence. Jumping out to with Villierstown and Bad the left and losing ground did Trade, but I prefer Old Applenot help either, and while he jack, a course and distance

runners)

B Powell
Be Balley
S Easte
R Supple

B do Hant Litr R Test

### Trainers' preferences

1.45 ROYAL GARDEN HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (25,085: 2m) (9 C4

Long handicap: M I Bebe 9-9.
BETTENC: 15-8 Wonder Man, 4-1 Liadett, 6-1 Old Virginia, Aliani, 8-1 Sacre D'Or, Good Spark, 12-1
Ketti, 14-1 Stone Fisks, 16-1 M Babe.

1969; WORDER MAN 4-11-2 M Pitmen (15-2) Mrs J Pitmen 9 ran

FORM FOCUS WONDER MAN best Stratery Ponds (levels) The best Stratery Ponds (levels) The Article (levels) The best of 13 by WONDER Man (not of the pond to firm) ATILALI, lest of 13 by WONDER Man (not of the pond to soft); earlier ATILALI (levels) The Wonder of the levels) The levels of the levels

2.20 KING GEORGE VI RANK CHASE (Grade I: £45,190: 3m) (11

RUNNERS AND RIDERS SEE RIGHT

2.50 WARNERS WAYWARD LAD HOVICES CHASE (£9,420: 2m 4f) (3

FORM FOCUS REMITTANCE MAN | CALAPAEZ, has by far the best hundle form, nk 2nd to Cardinas Raiph (levels), a witner since, on chasing debut at Luicasses (gave 3b) 81 with AMRIFLLAM (rec 4b) 4th beston 41%1 at Ascot (2m 4t, good to farm).

RETTING: 7-2 Combenners, 5-1 Lapistis, Coworth Park, 6-1 Wishion, Det Train, 7-1 Steme, 8-1 Stage Pityler, 9-1 Highland Bounty. 100-1 Weish Bluebell.

1989: AUCTION LAW 5-11-10 R Dumwoody (11-4 fev) D Barons 9 ran

FORM FOCUS WISHLON 5th beaten (2014) The property of the prope

**Course specialists** 

Guide to our in-line racecard

501 122-111 REMITTANCE MAN 11 (D.F.G) (J. Collins) N. Handerson 5-11-7... 502 PSS-854 AMRULAH 11 (T. Thorn) J. Bridger 10-11-0... 503 11;24-62 CALAPAEZ 22 (BF.F.G.S) (T. Blake) Miss 8 Sanders 6-11-0......

3.20 SHEARINGS HANDICAP HURDLE (25,312: 3m) (9 tunners)

603 615229 STAGE PLAYER 25 (CD.F) (M Interrison) R Simpson 4-11-1...
604 1603-09 HIGHLAND BOURTY 25 (F.Q) (A Etherndge) S Dow 6-10-12...
805 6369-P2 STEME 23 (D.A.S) (R Herbert) Mass E Sney 6-10-8...
806 1211-FP COMMERMERE 29 (C.Q.S) (J Joseph) R Frost 6-10-7...
807 21-4632 LAPIAFE 20 (D.F.Q) (R Attern R Hodges 5-10-4...
808 (1419)- DAT TRAIN 269 (D.S) (M Oberstein) Mrs J Plumen 6-10-1...
809 (1419)- DAT TRAIN 269 (D.S) (M Oberstein) Mrs J Plumen 6-10-1...
809 (MS) P WELSH BLUEBEL 11 (Mrs M Wilson) Gramme Ros 8-10-0...

BETTING: 1-3 Remittance Man. 9-4 Catapear, 98-1 Amerikah. 1989: CELTIC SHOT 7-11-4 P Scudemore (30-100 fav) C Brooks 5 ran

Celtic Shot, a former chamtwo-milers who challenge him throughout.

There is, however, no evidence yet that his stamina or courage have failed him.

David Elsworth, his trainer,

Celtic Shot, a former chamcut out to complete that particular treble over this distance.

The fellow represents the coay KEMIFTON: 1.15 Ardorn, 2.20
Nick The Biel. WETHERSP: 1.30
Charty Comer; 3.0 Northern Barry.

The fellow represents the plenty of cut in the ground.
Toby Tobias makes his seasonal debut although he sala to win the King George

Celtic Shot, a former chamcut out to complete that particular treble over this distance.

The Fellow represents the North-Report of Nick The Biel.

WETHERSP: 1.30 Benana Boat, 1.25 Von Csadek, HUNTINGDON: 1.50 Northern Barry.

Charty Comer; 3.0 Northern Barry.

MARKET RASEN: 1.15 Pogeon island; 2.15 Hill Street: 3.15 Skelstor.

Sedience yet that his stamina or courage have failed him.

David Elsworth, his trainer, seasonal debut although he sala to win the King George

The following are trainers preferred races for horses doubly engaged today KEMIFTON: 1.15 Ardorn, 2.20
Nick The Biel. WETHERSP: 1.30
Charty Comer; 3.0 Northern Barry.

MARKET RASEN: 1.15 Pogeon island; 2.15 Hill Street: 3.15 Skelstor.

SEDGEFIELD: 2.15 Decent Man:
3.15 Valiant Boy.

E. Dace (7) 94 R Dunwoody 90 W Mords 90

J Front 9 90

\_. S West (7) 69

# ARCTIC CALL Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) beat Cornandants (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-0) beat Cornandants (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-0) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 25, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 26, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 26, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 26, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain). Nov 27, Newbury, good to firm: (11-10) 2 (2m ited hi cap, 12 rain).

409 23-1331 THE FELLOW 38 (G.S) (Marquesa de Moratalia) F Doumen (Fr) 5-11-10 ...... A Kondrat -

BETTING: 13-8 Desert Orchid, 9-2 Celtic Shot, 5-1 Sabin Du Loir, 11-2 Toby Tobias, 8-1 Arctic Call, 10-1 The Fellow, 18-1 Nick The Brief, 25-1 Espy, 40-1 Panto Prince, 200-1 Prize Asset.

1989: DESERT ORCHID 10-11-10 R Dunwoody (4-6 fav) D Elsworth 6 ran

Form guide to the 11 acceptors

2.20 KING GEORGE VI RANK CHASE (Grade I: £45,190: 3m) (11

(2m 4 (2m 4) Nov 7, Newbury, firm: (11-8) beat Man O'Magic (11-10) 11 (3m, h'cap, £4,258, 2 ran).

Apr 5 Liverpool, good to firm: (11-3) with ESPY (11-5) faller 16th (3m 1f, nov feature ch, £21,036, 11 ran).

### **CELTIC SHOT**

Dec 12, Haydock, good to soft: (11-2) best Garrison Savannah (11-4) 81 with NICK THE BRIEF (11-10) 3rd besten 14 (3rn, ch, £10.025, 6 ran). Design 14 (sm, cn, £10,025, 8 ran).

Nov 21, Hsydock, soft: (11-3) beat
Party Politics (10-7) 2! (3m, limited h'cap, £10,155, 6 ran).

Nov 3. Wetherby, good: (11-2) beat
KILDIMO (11-2) 4! (3m 100yd, ch, £16,384, 7 ran).

### **DESERT ORCHID**

Dec 1, Sandown, good to firm: (12-0) (12-0) (13-1) (13-1) (13-0) (13-1) Apr 16, Fairyhouse, good: (12-0) beat Barney Burnett (10-0) 12i (3m 4i, listed h'cap ch, £55,200, 14 ran).

WINCANTON

Selections By Mandarin

12.30 Binny Grove. 1.0 Clean Through. 1.30 Marradong Brook. 2.0 Skipping Tim. 2.30 Chancery Buck. 3.0 Monday Club.

12.30 FATHER CHRISTMAS FILLIES NOVICES

4-5 Sweet N° Twenty, 3-1 Kinto, 6-1 Binny Grove, 8-1 Lady Secand, 10-1 Dorsen's Pride, 12-1 Plantiful, 14-1 others.

1,0 BOXING DAY HANDICAP CHASE (£2,880: 2m)

\$ Domoloo (7) 2 2253 JAMA 2ULU 19 (BF F,0) P Hobbs 5-11-7. C Rosedo (5) 3 -111 CLEAN THROUGH 4 (5),(3) N Henderson 5-11-5 (4ex)

4 -232 CAME DOWN 20 (BF) A Hodges 7-10-9...... A Tory (3)

8-11 Clean Through, 3-1 lems Zulu, 6-1 Skylark Wonder 12-1 Came Down.

1,30 CORAL GOLDEN HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,938. 2m 6f) (16)

1 84-1 WESTEWAY 34 (D.G.S) M Pipe 7-11-10 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ J Lower 2 -555 ROYAL CRAFTSKAM 11 (F.G) A Durm 9-11-0 C Messde (S) 3 1-FP MOSSCARA 94 (G.S.) Mrs. J Plomes 5-10-13 \_\_\_\_ J Horst 4 1-61 NCC THE DREAMER 28 (F.S.) WG M Turmer 5-10-11 16 6 Califord (7) 5 -48 TORKABAR 7 (S) G Higor 5-10-8 \_\_\_ M A Pringerski (7) 6 \_\_\_\_\_ / (G) WINTER HAYED 36 (R.CD.(S) J Baller 7-10-8 \_\_ M Lyack 7 31-1 MARRADOMO BROOK 23 (F.G) T Forster 5-10-8 \_\_\_\_\_ C Lieuwilly

7 3 SP/ SKYLASK WONDER 829 (D.G) C Pophern 8-11-10 5 Donable

HURDLE (£1,842: 2m) (19 runners)

### NICK THE BRIEF

Osc 12, Heydock, good to soft see CELTIC SHOT. Mar 15, Cheltenham, good to firm: (12-0) pulled after 12m behind Norton's Coin (12-0) with TOBY TOBUAS (12-0) 41 2nd and DESERT ORCHID (12-0) 41 3rd (3m 2t. championship ch, £67,003, 12 ran). Eep 17 ( appearations) entr (12-0) Feb 17, Leopardstown, soft (12-0) best Carvil's Hill (12-0) 5i with PANTO PRINCE (12-0) over 301 4th (3m, listed ch, £47,225, 6 ran).

### **PANTO PRINCE**

Nov 27. Huntingdon, good: (11-9) 7: 4th to Pagwell Bay (11-1) (2m 4t, grade II ch, £16,369. 5 ran).

May 1, Ascot, firm: (11-11) 4%l 4th to With Gods Help (10-3) (2m, h'cap, £7.050, 6 ran).

Apr 19, Chettenham, firm: (11-10) ESPY

Apr 19, Cheltenham, firm: (11-10)
Unsasted rider 7th in a contest won by Nohalmduri (11-13) (2m, h'cap, £4,328, 7 ran).

Apr 19, Cheltenham, firm: (11-10)
Unsasted rider 7th in a contest won by Nohalmduri (11-13) (2m, h'cap, £4,328, 7 ran).

Apr 7, Liverpool, firm: (10-7) 51 to Selection: DESERT ORCHID

Dec 1, Sandown, good to firm: see DESERT ORCHID. Nov 16, Ascot, good to firm (11-0) 31 2nd to Morley Street (11-10) (2m 41, grade II ndie, £15.020, 5 ran). Nov 6, Devon, good, see DESERT ORCHID.

### THE FELLOW

Nov 18. Auteuil, heavy (10-5) beat Rocker (9-8) shink (3m 3f 110yd, cn, £64.309. 6 ran). Oct 18. Engheen, soft (11-0) 4½ 3rd to Shaystoun (10-7) (3m 1f, cn, £48,231. 9 ran) Sep 30, Auteuil heavy (11-0) 2½1-3rd to Brambelle (9-13) (2m 5t, cn, £25,723, 5 ran).

### **TOBY TOBIAS**

Apr 5, Liverpool, good to firm (11.9) beat Cavvies Clown (11-5) 1%I (3m 11, feature ch. £22,218 5 ran) Mar 15. Chettenham, good to firm: see NICK THE SRIEF.

## Feb 10, Newbury, heavy (11-6) unseased noer 10th in a contest won by Barmbrook Again (11-12) (3m, issed ch, £11,030, 4 ran).

**VON CSADEK** Nov 24, Newbury, good to firm. see ARCTIC CALL.

7 -P36 IMPERIAL CHAMPAGNE 25 (CD,G,S) Miss J To

8 6-31 UNDER OFFER 12 (B.G.S) P Balley 9-10-0 M R

13 PQ NELSAC 708 G Ham 6-10-0................................ N A Fitzgerald (7)

Course specialists

### WOLVERHAMPTON

9 24- HILTRAL ASTRONOUT 250 (5) H ADMITTED -104
3 Leoch (5)
10 612- ADMITTAL'S LEAP 296 (0.5) Mrs F Wishing 6-10-4
K Mooney

11 -129 SHASTON 7 (S.CD,F,S) W G M Turner 5-10-4
12 PSD- ARCTIC BAROH 306 Miss J Thoma 5-10-0...... N Dawn

Selections

By Mandarin 1.0 Return To Romance. 1.30 Red Rondo. 2.0 New Halen. 2.30 Rynode. 3.0 Dolly Wardance.

Going: good to firm (good in places) 1.0 NETHERTON HANDICAP HURDLE (4-Y-O:

22,092: 2m) (10 runners) 1 6645 THE LIGHTER SIDE 15 (D.F.G) B Proces 11-10

4 -654 RETURN TO ROMANCE 27 (DJF) F Jordan 10-0

5-2 Clos Du Bols, 7-2 Rag Time Bate, 5-1 Emperors Warrior, 6-1 Lyph, 6-1 The Lighter Side, 10-1 others. 1.30 DEEPFIELDS NOVICES CHASE (£2,979: 2m)

1 SFF1 RED RONDO 12 (D.G) J Edwards 6-11-8 N Water 2 2-75 BLODOMA 37 F Jordon 5-10-12 Windfe 3 ULHG CARA MUFFN 11 J Microb 6-10-12 5-10 4 8-5F HARD STUFF 19 (BF,Q) D Nicholson 6-10-12 R Balan

4-6 Red Rondo. 9-4 Hens Stuff, 8-1 Bloxham, 12-1 Indian or, 18-1 Cera Mutlin. 33-1 Umbrete Girl. 2.0 HARRY BROWN CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (26,060: 2m 4f) (5)

1 F-27 DEEP FLASH 41 (F.S.) J Edwards 7-11-10 M Williamson 2 1354 NEW HALEN 11 (CD,GLS) A Junes 9-11-7 E Tierrey (7) 3 424F WIGTOWN BAY 32 (D,F,G.) J Mackin 7-11-4 M Belliamy (3) 4 SU-8 BARTINAS STAR 82 (D,F,G.S) P Boven 10-10-0 7 Wink 5 US24 SOLAR CLOUD 32 (D,F,G.S) M Chartes 8-10-0 D Bridgewater (7)

6-4 New Helen, 15-8 Deep Flash, 5-2 Wigtown Bay, 12-Bertines Star, 20-1 Solar Croud. Course specialists

TRAINERS: M Pipe, 21 winners from 71 runners, 29.6%; Mrs J Plemen, 18 from 78, 23.1%; J Edwards, 17 from 78, 21.8%; Miss S Witton, 8 from 41, 19.5%; M Ecidey, 3 from 19, 15.8%; R Lee, 6 from 43, 14.0%.

15 30-0 STAR OF KUWAIT 41 (F) N Thomson 6-10-0 16 23/ POP DANCER 779 (F) W G M Turner 8-10-0 R Goldstein 2.0 MID SEASON CHASE (25,117 2m 5f) (7) 1 2-21 CERTAIN STYLE 18 (G.S. O Sherwood 7-11-2

4 -P2F BATTLE BLAZE 55 W G M Turner 7 10-10 In a Cation (i)

5 13F1 ZUAMMERSET 20 (F.Q) A Barrow 8-10-10 ... A Tory (3) 8 P-SF EMBLA PEPPER 37 C Pophem 8-10-5 . S Deschoe (7) 7 30 REQUARTO 608 R Hooges 6-10-5 ... S Microsoft 10-11 Skipping Tim. 5-2 Centen Style, 9-2 Gay Edition, 10-1 ummerset, 16-1 Battle Bisze, 33-1 others.

2.35 HARRY DUFOSEE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,262: 3m 1f) (8)

1 -23R ROSCOE HARVEY 30 F.G.SI C Brooks 8-17-11 2 4PS- SLUE DART 291 (CD,G,S) T Forster 10-11-7

3 2314 GOLDEN MINSTREL 19 (D,F,C,S) J Gifford [1-11-6] T Gara 4 - \$11 LANDERDALE LAD 25 (CO.F.S.) J King 8-10-9

3-1 Lauderdale Lad, 7-2 Chancery Buck, 4-1 Roscoe Har-vey, 5-1 Golden Minstrel, 6-1 Under Offer, 5-1 others. 3.5 STIRRUP CUP NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,828: 2m) (13) 4 2-6P FAUX PAVILLON 29 Mrs J Retty 6-10-11

5 4465 THE SLATER 27 W G M Turner 5-10-5 ... C Rhande (5) 6 -512 MONDAY CLUB 4 (D.G) M Pipe 8-10-5 ... J Lower 7 805 CARPE DIEM 3225 M McNed 5-10-0 ... R Amort 8 POSP PRIME WANDEN 40 R Holder 4-10-0 ... R Amort 9 5-80 WADSWICK LADY 76 R Serion 5-10-0 ... R Money 10 849 SOVEREIGN DEEP 20 M Michael 8-10-0 ... R Money 11 9455 PALIS SWIFT 20 A Chambertan 4-10-0 ... R Goldstein 12 006U KING OF THE CLOUDS 30 (S) 0 Ocenium 5-10-0

7-4 Monday Club. 7-2 Mister Oddy 5-1 Susen Henchard, 8-1 The Slater, 8-1 Andy Boy. 10-1 Prime Warden, 12-1 others

TRAINERS Mrs. J. Primer, 24 wanners from 81 numers. 29.6% M. Pips. 21 from 104. 20.2%. O. Sherwood. 9 from 48, 18.6%. N. Henderson, 7 from 48.14.6%. A. Turnett, 7 from 48.14.6%, J. Gifford, 10 from 70, 14.3%. JOCKEYS K Mooney 15 winners from 91 rides, 16.5%, R Rowe, 8 from 51, 15.7%, J Lower, 4 from 30, 13.3%, G Upson, 4 from 31, 12.9%, C Maude, 3 from 28, 10.7% (Only questions).

2.30 OLDBURY INTERMEDIATE HANDICAP CHASE (£2,960: 3m 1f) (4) 1 11-4 WESTERN LEGISMO 53 (BF,O,S) J Edwards 6-12-0 N William

2 3-14 SLITE BOY 25 (C,BF,F) M Olive 8-11-4 Williamson 2 3 Byt- RYNDOE 564 (C,F) R Lee 7-10-12 WildEpstand 4 450F COLUMBE COLOR 5 (S) J Macter 7-10-0 S J Cheel -5-4 Western Legend, 7-4 Ellie Scy, 7-2 Rynode, 16-1 Couture Color. 3.0 WREKIN NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,996: 2m 4f) (17)

1 1119 CONCERT PAPER 7 (C,G,S) Mass S Wilton 6-12-0 2 3-64 GENEROUS SCOT 35 A James 6-11-4 E Tenmy (7)
3 35-2 LEXXDEN 19 (8,89) M Pips 4-10-12 M Forster (7)
4 POR- VARCORIT 219 (F) A Rest 8-10-8 200 prof
5 SEF- OVERT 223 B Mediation 5-10-8 T Wall
6 0-40. PORT OF KIRRS 11 (8F,5) Mrs J Pisman 5-10-7
2 05-2 DOS V MARDANCE 32 T Downsto 2-10-5 7 06-2 DOLLY WARDANCE 33 T Donnelly 7-10-5

8 5-41 ASTRABLE 30 (6) J Wherion 5-10-3 3 J O'Noil
9 AP LAST BROWER 16 J King 5-10-2 M Wilsonson
10 3-06 CATCHAPEINT 34 M Wilsonson 5-10-1 P Kelty (7)
11 2242 ROYAL HURT 48 W Cay 5-10-1 R Benan (5)
12 F359 HUNDECOLA 21 8 Presco 5-10-0 A Juckee (5)
13 B309 ARCTIC KEN 61 8 Pasing 7-10-0 C Evans
14 20 SCIME SPARE 17 C Jones 11-10-0 M Jones (3)
16 25-2 FILAMPTON KRUSE 7 M Charles 8-10-0
D Bridgmater (7)

5-2 Lexiden, 4-1 Spiril Of Kibris 5-1 Dolly Wardance 6-1 Concert Paper 8-1 Frampton House Astrobes 10-1 others 3.30 WALSALL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,512 2m)

3 421 CELTIC 908 5 (D.F.S) O O'Nest 10-11-6 (Feet)
V Station (7) 4 25-2 CARBONATE Z7 (D.S) P Davies 5-10-2 5 2-OF GENTLEMAN'S JIG 29 (D,F) J Edwards 5-10-2

8 U226 BICKERSHAN 5 (CD.F.G) J Spearing 7-10-0

7 /12 CHESTER TERRACE 50 (D.S) K Bridgeston 8-10-0 D Bridgeston (7) 8 542- COURT RILER 945 (D.F.Q.S) Miss S Wilton 7-10-0 9 40-0 TOKYO JOE 21 (D.G) F Aerston 7-10-0 — S J O'reell 10 1521 BOURADASIA 21 (B.D.F.S) P Delton 7-10-0 11 10-4 NORTHERN BARRY 29 (D,F) J McConnochie 6-10-0

12 1-00 PHYRIAFARI \$\$ (D,F) R Lee 9-10-0

12 1-00 PHTHAFARI SZ (D,F) R Lee 9-10-0
Leesmé Bidredge (?)
19 5-54 CREAM AND GREEN 5 K White 6-10-0 .......... A O'Nigme
14 25P- REGAL BRASS 273 B McMarton 8-10-0 ............ ? Wall
9-2 Cellic Bob, 5-1 L'Uomo Piu, 6-1 Chester Terrace, 8-1
Garbonets, Shu Fly, 10-1 Bicksrman, Mouradabia, 12-1 oriers.

JOCKEYS: No qualifiers.

1989: AFRICAN SPIRIT 5-11-1 S Turner (6-1) R Whitaker 17 ran

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F - fell. distance winner. BF - beaten favourite in P - pulled up. U - unsessed rider. B - brought down. S - slipped up. R - refused. (F - firm. good to firm. hard. G - good. D - disqualified). Horse's name. Days S - soft, good to soft. heavy). Owner in S - soft, good to soft. heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider winner. D - distance winner. CD - course and Handicapper's rating. 2.0 SUPERMASTER HANDICAP CHASE (£5,117: 2m 4f 100yd) (8 runners) dicare impertain 8-11. BETTBIG: 3-1 Nos Na Gaoshe, 7-2 the Majed, 4-1 Old Applejack, 5-1 The Demon Barber, 11-2 Bad ie, 8-1 Villerstown, 12-1 Handy Trick, 33-1 Impertain. 1986: PHOERIX GOLD 9-11-8 M Dwyer (11-4 Ser) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8 ran 2.30 LONG MARSTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,590: 2m) (4 runners) caps Papajoto 9-11. SETTING: 4-6 Leigh Boy, 5-4 Papaioto. 1989: LANDSKI 6-9-7 N Smith (16-1) J Parkes 9 ran

1 113143 GOOD TRACES 13 (BF,F,Q,S) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Hall 12-0 ....

3.0 ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE (£17,480: 3m 100yd) (9 runners) 

Long handicup: Asson Express 9-13. Birting Jack 9-13. Bluff Knoll 9-11. BETTING: 7-2 Bull Knol, 4-1 Mr Frisk, 5-1 Stay On Tracks, 7-1 Aston Express, 10-1 Bitting Jack Durham Edition, The Thinker, 25-1 Bob Tisdell. 1989: DURHAM EDITION 11-10-5 A Martigan (5-1) W A Stephenson 7 ran

1.35 BOXING DAY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,954: 2m) (10 runners) 

(Only qualifie

Course specialists **JOCKEYS** 

er finner

# Captured and captivating moments

By PETER BALL

SELECTING the best sports photographs from a whole year is a task to be approached with high seriousness, and perhaps some trepidation. There can be few doubts, however, about the quality of the photographs which the International Olympic Committee (IOC) jury finally came up with after two days of intense discussion in the Swiss resort of Verbier this summer.

Deciding on the criteria for making a decision was itself a considerable task. In the end, news values proved decisive, and the choice of the rejoicing West Germans as the winning picture reflected the position of football's World Cup as the year's greatest sporting extrav-

The difficulty of obtaining the photograph also played its part, photographers having only moments to get their pictures before the stadium lights went out. To find a and take such a picture which captured the mood of the tribute to both Simon Bruty's

The peak of action, the important consideration for the jury, and Pascal Ron-deau's shot of the moment Gugelmin hit Berger's Ferrari on the first corner of the French grand prix can have few equals of shots of the moment of impact. Happily, there were no injuries to undermine appreciation of the

But as well as reportage, there were other criteria mood, composition, imagination - and the jury returned to tion—and the jury returned to the World Cup for the bronze medal, Gerard Vandystadt's study of the Argentinian goal-keeper, Pumpido, in the open-ing match winning widespread admiration for its compo-cition Taken from up in the sition. Taken from up in the stand, it is patently an artistic picture, using light and shade

Yet if those three pictures won the prizes in the colour section, there were half a dozen others of supreme quality. Describing photographs which are not visible is a singularly useless activity, but an underwater shot of a diver cisive in selecting the winner, at the moment of impact, a Bernhard Kunz's picture from shot of athletes reflected in a West German cycle race of puddle, of a Tour de France rider having a break in a field, on their backs. A synchronised and of the Argentinian foot-ball team, bare-chested to a man, yelling in triumph at the end of a penalty shoot-out, rival the three winners.

This year the black and white photographs generally

The moment of victory: West Germany's footballers celebrate their triumph in the World Cup, the year's supreme achievement. Seconds later, the stadium lights went out

photographs. Again, the dramatic moment proved defall indeed.

of the swimmers about to ume Two, marketed by break surface in David IMS/Studio 6, Lausanne, Ashdown's shot. But if the Switzerland, and available at made less impact, which is to swimmers are almost detake nothing away from a humanised in the shot, the Road, London WC2 (£20).

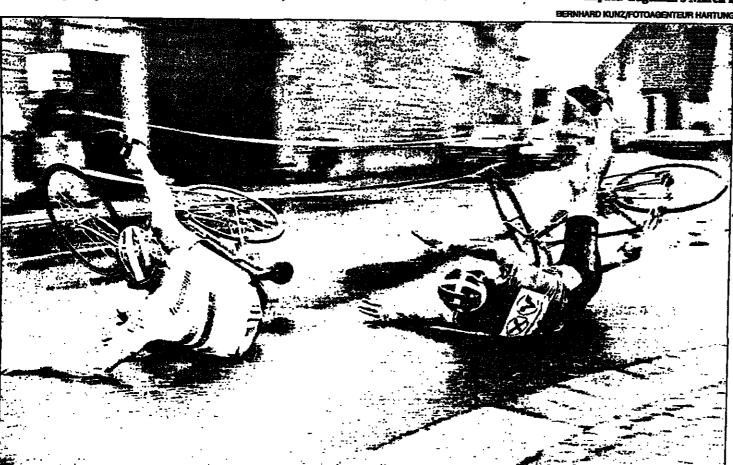
water distorting them and the caps hiding their heads, the subject of the bronze medal, by contrast, is almost all too

Like the winning colour shot, Ferenc Nemeth's shot captures a triumphant winner, one of the essences of sport and sports photography. But the face of the autocross rider, with just his white teeth shining through a mud-covered face, is of sheer, unalloyed pleasure rather than triumph. It is, simply, a nice photo, one which makes you smile back at it and one which reminds us that if sport does anything, it should be to give pleasure to both participants and spectators.

● The winning photographs and a selection of many others The silver medal was an in the competition can be artistic study, with the jurors found in The IOC Best of impressed by the composition Sport Photographic Book, Vol-



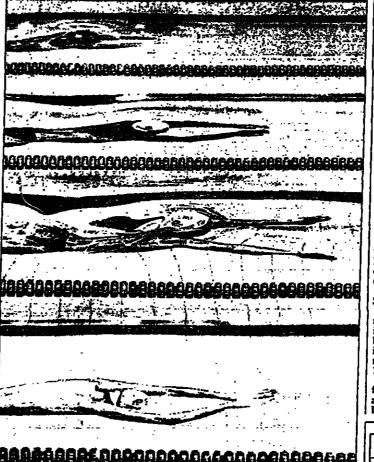
Maximum impact: Gugelmin's March hits Berger's Ferrari on the first corner of the French grand prix DAVID ASHDOWN/THE INDEPENDENT



The slide and fall of racing cyclists: symmetry and synchronisation as two West German riders take a high-speed tumble at a bend



Art and goalkeeping: Pumpido, the Argentinian goalkeeper, is a study of light and shade during the opening match in the World Cup



Surface tension: swimmers at the Commonwealth Games



The joy of sport: purity smiling through the autocross mud

HOCKEY

## A northern welcome waiting for Grimley

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

AFIER spending several sea-sons in the south of England. Martyn Grimley returns to Cheshire for the traditional Boxing Day match against Lancashire at Liverpool Sefton Club today. Grimley, the Great Britain and England forward, is one of ten Neston players chosen by Cheshire, who have also included Barker and Standard Warrington.

hope from Warrington. Whereas Neston have banked primarily on experience, Lancashire have assembled a team of comparatively young players, foremost among them Bell and Shipton from Formby. Among the more seasoned players is Andy Ferns, of Hounslow.

The event, according to the format of recent years, is pisyed at three levels, veterans, juniors and seniors. Cheshire won the and seniors. Cheshire won the trophy last year on their overall tally of points. They were carried to success by their under-21 side, which won comfortably, the senior match having been drawn 2.2

For many years, the annual match between these sides has drawn large crowds, attracted as much by the stimulus of com-petition as by the conviviality identified with it.

Not to be outdone, the south ern region of England has its own festive occasion at Cheam, where the President's XI is opposed in the best of spirits by the club first XI. The game will be played on the Old Walcountians artificial turf pitch at Carshalton Road, Wood-

In the past decade the President's XI have won hand-somely, but this year Tony Bennett's selection has been somewhat restricted, many of the stars having declined his

There is another reason why he has reservations about his team's chances. Cheam are in a more exalted position in the Pizza Express London League than that to which they are accustomed at this time of year. However, with Molloy of Surbiton and Marchant of Richmond in the side Reprett has cesses. The club capt

**CYCLING** 

## Top prize awarded to amateur

By Peter Bryan

PETER Longbottom, the Yorkrides for Manchester Wheelers a surprise Christmas

Plaque.
The award, first made in 1934, is the sport's most prestigious and commemorates the prolific record-breaker of became a noted adminis

Longbottom's season started with the Commonwealth gland's bronze-medal squad in the 100km team time-trial; he was given 48 hours' notice to ride in the 179km road-race, in which he finished fifth.

In July, riding a rare 25 miles time-trial, he set a national record of 49min 30sec to break the previous best, set by the legendary Alf Engers 12 years earlier, by 11 seconds. Three days later, he won the British 100 miles time-trial title in South Wales.

He finished third in the

national hill climb champ-ionship and last month ended his 10-month season by break-ing the straight out 50 miles record at 33mph with a time of 1hr 30min 14sec.

Longbottom, better known for his road-racing successes, also finished third in the seasonlong Star Trophy series.

THE \* TIMES SPORTS SERVICE RACING Call 0898 500 123

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Jeantot

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Even a safe marina berth holds no guarantees in a famous test of yachting endurance

## Braced to confront the many perils of the boat-buster

IT HAS a reputation second only to the Whitbread Round the World Race, a 630-mile boat-buster. In 1977, 58 of the 129 starters threw in the towel; in 1984, the conditions led twothirds of the fleet to retire hurt. A year later, I experienced just how tough it was aboard the British Southern Cross team yacht, Panda.

We had begun well enough, and led the fleet on corrected time after building up a 15-mile lead over our rival one-tonners in the strong, reaching conditions experienced during the first 24 hours. But then the "Southerly Buster" blew in from nowhere, and raging against a three to four-knot adverse current, the Bass Strait was transformed into a boiling cauldron. Before we knew it the boat was breaking up, and crashing off one standing wave, the bows suddenly split in half.

In 1988, Windward Pas-Rothmans, suffered a split right across her deck while leading the race, and had she not been turned round immediately, the crew believes the boat would have Pacific championship - and broken in half. We experi- our performance to date has enced something similar to made us favourite with the this during the closing stages bookies. Three line wins this during the closing stages bookies. Three line wins of the first leg of last winter's coupled with a ninth, fifth Whitbread, when a split and first on corrected time Rothmans's deck, so we championship have given us record are likely to drift now hope to know how hard great confidence, and a win away with the wind.

LAWRIE

The skipper of Rothmans on the Sydney to Hobart race which started earlier today

we can push our boat. But there are plenty of others who will not

One of them, perhaps, is the man who rammed Rothmans on Sunday as she sat in her marina berth. Even the strongest Austra-lian vocal broadside failed to alert him to the danger as his yacht made a tight turn in one direction, and his head went in the other. Too late, he tried to select reverse gear, muffed it, and his boat T-boned us, her bows punching a one-foot square hole through Rothmans's two-inch thick carbon and Kevlar stiffened topsides.

His careless action left our hoarse shore crew less than sage II, a state-of-the-art enamoured. They had to maxi not dissimilar to spend the whole of Christmas repairing the damage in time for the start.

We are here to try and win the double - line honours in record time, and the Asiain the Sydney to Hobart race, the last in this series, could put us top of that, too.

Our principal com-petition is Bob Bell's former British maxi, Condor, Syd Fischer's evergreen Australian entry, Ragamuffin, and Brindabella, a 65ft ultralight design that could skate past us if strong downwind conditions prevail all the way to Hobart.

Those were the winds that helped Jim Kilroy's 79ft veteran American maxi, Kialoa III, set a time of two days 14hr 33min, a record that has stood for the past 15 years. It is high time it was broken, and conditions will-ing, we have the boat and crew to do it. Ten of our number served with me in the Whitbread race, another six work as our delivery crew, and three more hail back to my days with Australia's America's Cup defender, Kookaburra.

good northeaster blowing up to 25 knots to speed us on our way for the first 24 hours, before the "Southerly Buster" strikes as we cross the notorious Bass Strait. If we can reach Tasmania by midday on Friday, Rothmans may carry the sea breeze all the way up the Derwent River. But if we arrive off Hobart at midopened up across one side of in the first three races of the night, then our hopes of the



Lofty ambitions: Tom Warren checks the rigging on Rothmans at her Sydney berth

## Jeantot leads Christmas charge on Sydney

From Bob Ross

IN SYDNEY

SEVEN yachts in a Christmas rush finished the 7,000-nauticalmile, Cape Town to Sydney second leg of the BOC Challenge round the world race within 24

Bunched when they ran into a slow-moving high-pressure sys-tem to the south of Australia last. week, they had almost regatta-style racing to the finish. Four or within sight of each other in the Bass Strait between Tasmania

Winner of the previous two BOC challenges, Philippe Jeantot, of France, sailing Credit Agricole IV, led the charge finishing at 1432hrs local times on Christmas Eve. He was fourth finisher of the 21 starters from Cape Town, more than two daws 12 hours behind Alain two days 12 hours behind Alain
Gauties, of France. Jeantot was
disappointed by the lack of
strong winds this time in the
Southern Ocean, in whose
strong winds his new yacht was
built to sustain high speeds.

The dad add and of Australia

sailing Innkeeper, finished 45 minutes behind Jeantot, also disappointed at the lack of good breeze in the Southern Ocean -as was the American, Mike Plant, who in Duracell finished at 0136hrs on Christmas Day, although he blew out three of his four spinnakers.

Plant, who won class II of the 1986-87 BOC, said: "We had a helleva run in Bass Strait, 50 knots from behind and towards the end of the day, the seas were pretty extreme: very fast, close together and very steen.

minutes behind Plant, said:
"The worst weather we had was
in our own backyard. I went
through the oil rigs [there are 26
of them in pass Strait] like a

The first class II (50ft and under overall length) finisher was the radical Servant IV (Yves Dupasquier, France), within four hours of Grinaker, Bertie Reed's 60-footer, and without obvious problems. Next to finish is expected to be the Frenchwoman, Isabelle Antissier, who broke the main

proceeding slowly but steadily to Sydney under jury rig. Next class II finisher should be Josh Hall, of Britain, expected on

One skipper filled with Christmas cheer yesterday was Robin Davie, of Britain, who has high hopes of retaking the lead in the Corinthian class. Paul Thackaberry, his American rival sailing Volcano, who had gained a 100-mile lead over Davic a week ago, has failen foul of a succession of low account.

COUITSC.
FINESHERS: 1, Allied Bank (J. Martin, S.A.), 25 days 6in 47min 23sec; 2, Groupe Scein (C. Augin, Fr), 27:00:45:02; 3, Generali Concorde (A. Gaurier, Fr), 27:00:55:14; 4, Credit Agricole (P. Jesantot, Fr), 29:16:22:08; 5, Inniseper (D. Adams, Aus), 29:16:16:52; 6, Duracell (M. Plant, US), 30:02:38:23; 7, Jerkan Yacht Builders (Kanga Birdes, Aus), 30:08:34:47; 8, Grinaker (B. Reed, SA), 30:08:34:47; 8, Grinaker (B. Reed, SA), 30:08:34:47; 2; 7, Cataubetive times (stages 1 and 2 provisional); 1, Alled Bank, 64 days 2hr 35min 7sec; 2, Groupe Sceta, 54:18:45:31; 3, Generali Concorde, 65:07:37:83; 4, Credit Agricole, 67:12:44:53; 5, Duracell, 69:14:16:13; 6, Jankan, 69:18:36:35; 7, Inniseper, 73:23:48:46; 8, Grinaker, 74:14:54:12; 9, BBV Expo 92, 74:20:03:39, Canacel It 1, Servant IV (7) Dupasquier, Fr), 30:12:02:18, Canacellers

## What happened to the season's sporting cheers?

Dear Santa Claus,

I wanted to get my thank you letter off straight away in order to set the right example, although there is not much chance of any of my lot writing to you before they send in their next set of unreasonable demands. The toddler has been known to write a letter, I think the last one was a letter H, but her letters are difficult to post because they are usually written on the carpet. The other two are older and don't believe in you; I am beginning to see why. I must say you have

turned out to be quite a disappointment this year. How did you forget to deliver any television sets with sport on them? I can see how there would not be a lot of interest in sport where you come from, given Lapland's dismal performance in everything except the Hole in Ice Fishing Contest, spon-sored by Fox's Glacier Mints and shown, no doubt, on Channel 4, but I would have thought a man with your global perspective would have realised that there is little to do once the shops close on Christmas Eve except watch television.

Granted Channel 4 came up with its usual quota of American football on Sunday but I fail to see how you could claim the credit for that, given that you have hardly taken off on your rounds at that stage. No, I think that for the purposes of iudging your sporting contribution, we must start on Christmas morning and finish on Boxing night. Unfortunately, Boxing night has not arrived yet but I see there is not even a Grandstand on BBC1 this afternoon so I shall not be sleeping in front of that, although I hope to open an eye for the Test match highlights.

What you need to do next year is deliver the gift of insight to the planners at BBC and ITV. You would think that ITV would have the brains to put The Match out on Boxing Day afternoon with Grandstand on BBC1. That way, people like me could sit around saying, oh dear, look at this, no sport for blooming ages then you get Grandstand and The SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

ITV has missed a golden opportunity here: The Match on Boxing Day would surely draw more people than, hang on, let's see, Lorna Doone. Who she? Of course, ITV put out the Aston Villa v Arsenal game on Sunday. I managed to watch that. My family wanted me to go shopping but I said that I did not agree with all these shops opening on Sunday so we split the domestic duties between us: the family went shopping and I stayed at home to make sure the television did not blow up under one of

those power surges we get at

Christmas.

Christmas Eve looked a bit more promising; in fact, at first glance I thought you had dropped all the sport down Channel 4's chimney, and that was just in the late morning. First there was three-day eventing from Blenheim. I switched that on and then I thought, hang on, this is like one of those Christmas cards you write in pencil and then get back the following year. It was a repeat All right, it was a compilation. Not to worry though, there was only half an hour to wait between that and Nigel Kennedy Plays The Four Seasons, which I took to be some sort of procelebrity football match. Turned it on, there was a chap with vertical hair and spots playing a violin. What

Christmas Day was a complete sports washout. There was Nigel Kennedy Plays Bruch but I wasn't falling for that two days in a row, so I must say I went to bed last night feeling like a man who has been given ten pairs of

Oh well, I expect all this will change when Fifa allows Lapland to stage the World Cup on ice, occupying the whole of December, with the goalposts half a mile apart and red cards for picking up bits of the pitch and putting them in drinks. Until that day dawns I see no point in

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## together and very steep. Kanga Birtles, of Australia, sailing Jarkan, who finished 55 Antissier, who broke the main mast on her class I yawl Match up against each other us communicating further. and the mainland and in one David Adams, of Australia, **MONEY MARKETS** UNLISTED SECURITIES OTHER STERLING RATES STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES 25 ASS Barnett 26 ASD Selection 27 ASS ASS Barnett 28 ASS ASS Barnett 29 Asson Comp 27 Asson Comp 27 Asson Comp 28 Asson Comp 29 Asson Comp 27 Asson Comp 27 Asson Comp 28 Asson Comp 29 Asson Comp 20 Asson Comp 20 Asson Comp 20 Asson Comp 21 Asson Para Res 22 Asson Para Res 23 Asson Para Res 24 Asson Para Res 25 Asson Comp 26 Asson Comp 27 Asson Para Res 28 Asson Para Res 29 Asson Comp 20 Asson Comp 21 Asson Comp 22 Asson Comp 23 Asson Comp 24 Asson Comp 25 Asson Comp 26 Asson Comp 27 Asson Comp 28 Asson Comp 29 Asson Comp 20 Asson Comp 21 Asson Comp 22 Asson Comp 23 Asson Comp 24 Asson Comp 25 Asson Comp 26 Asson Comp 27 Asson Comp 28 Asson Comp 29 Asson Comp 29 Asson Comp 29 Asson Comp 29 Asson Comp 20 Asson Comp 21 Asson Comp 22 Asson Comp 23 Asson Comp 24 Asson Comp 25 Asson Comp 26 Asson Comp 27 Asson Comp 28 Asson Comp 29 Asson Comp 29 Asson Comp 20 Asson Comp 21 Asson Comp 22 Asson Comp 23 Asson Comp 24 Asson Comp 25 Asson Comp 26 Asson Comp 27 Asson Comp 28 Asson Comp 29 Asson Comp 29 Asson Comp 29 Asson Comp 20 Asson Comp 21 Asson Comp 22 Asson Comp 23 Asson Comp 24 Asson Comp 25 Asson Comp 3 month 2.68-2.83pr 0.95-0.80pr 3%-3%-pr 5%-42pr 11%-9%-pr 55-45pr 3-2%-pr pu-60ds 26-40ds 9-3pr 7-5%-pr 1%-1%-ds 3%-3%-pr 2%-2%-pr 4scount = ds. 205 1715 Count Septembry 205 155 Count (County) 205 155 County County 205 156 Hardway Walter 41 6 Hardway Walter 42 17 Hardway Walter 42 18 Hardway Walter 43 18 Hardway Walter 44 18 Hardway Lucian 45 15 Hardway Walter 45 15 Hardway Walter 46 17 Hardway Lucian 46 18 Hardway Walter 47 Hardway Lucian 48 18 Hardway 48 18 Hardway 49 18 Hardway 40 18 H | 1 mth 2 mth 3 mth 13%-13% | 13%-13% | 13%-13% | 13%-13% | 13%-13% | 13%-13% | 13%-13% | 13%-13% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 13%-13% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 13%-13% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14% | 14%-14 13<sup>5</sup>16 13%-13% 7.75-7.70 13<sup>6</sup>16-<sup>3</sup>18 EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%) • Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed i Price at suspension g Ulvidend and viold exclude a special payment it Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights a Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. 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Platinum prize on Christmas Eve. Mrs Lucy Ben-Levi, of Hendon, north-west London, Mr Barry Toms, of Lillington Spain Worcestershire, and Mrs. Anne Irons, of Tarn in France, each receive £666.66.

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# Business and Finance Turkish takeover Half-time loss cut at Rush to sign up for USM likely to free BCMB deposits

MORE THAN 8,000 depos- credit lines to handle an BCMB will virtually complete Merchant Bank are due to receive a late Christmas customers access to their

have confirmed that negotiations to sell the bank to Cukurova Group, the Turkish conglomerate, should be completed early in the new year.
Almost all BCMB's depositors, owed an estimated £100 million, have had their accounts frozen since June, when the bank and British & Commonwealth its parent,

went into administration. Stephen Adamson, one of & Young, said on Monday: "It is hoped that discussions will be completed very shortly which will then enable the potential purchaser to ensure the delay in the sale of the delay in the sale of the s that the necessary money lines are in place. This will take some time." final agreement should be reached next

Cukurova is believed to be paying about £20 million, far faced claims from a group of less than the £40 million or more it offered earlier. Talks with the Bank of England to obtain the necessary author- BCMB's disposal will allow isation are under way. Cukurova is negotiating a buyer for Shrubb. The sale of

itors whose savings are frozen expected run on the bank once the break-up of British & in British & Commonwealth the deal is complete, when depositors are expected to withdraw their money. When ent. An imminent sale of the deal is done, Cukurova the bank promises to allow its will also owe up to £750,000 to broking arm, is the most the Deposit Protection Board, The bank's administrators of BCMB's depositors for up which has compensated some to £15,000 each. Only 52 of with Exco's management and BCMB's clients have been paid, however, since the board has been able to trace only BCMB's small number of

direct depositors. Most of BCMB's funds were deposited indirectly through five stockbroking firms. Only RI Shrubb is said to have supplied enough information on its clients for the board to debts of up to £1.3 billion. Stephen Adamson, one of begin sending out claims the administrators from Ernst forms. The board and the Bank of England have asked The Securities Association for

> BCMB forced Shrubb, one of British & Commonwealth's stockbrokers, into administration this month. Shrubb's clients had £38 million frozen in BCMB, and the broker Coutts. The completion of

Commonwealth, once the second largest non-banking financial institution after the substantial asset that remains to be sold. The administrators are still negotiating a disposal other groups. The sale of Shares in Ciba-Geigy, the Provincial Bank, the mortgage provider, has been delayed until the housing market

Last October, Ernst & Young admitted in a report to creditors that it had raised less than £200 million in disposals. compared with the group's

Cukurova is one of Turkey's three largest conglomerates, with businesses in steel, construction, chemicals and textiles. It owns three banks in Turkey, Yapi Kredi, Pamukbank and Interbank, and Bank Kreiss in Germany.

ISTANBUL: The market

index at Istanbul's stock exchange hit an 11-month low on Monday, falling 8.9 per cent as nerves about the Gulf prompted heavy selling. Investors sold the 50-share index (1986:100) down 296.15 points to a 3,039.84 close after Friday's 3,335.99, against a previous low of 2,974.84 on

# Stonehill

STONEHILL Holdings, the furniture to property group, trimmed pre-tax losses to £650,000 (£904,000 loss) in the six months to end-September. Turnover tumbled from £4.91 million to £606,000, reflecting closures.

Operating profit was £175,000 (£269,000 loss). However, interest payments rose to £825,000 (£635,000). The loss per share was cut to 3.25p (4.73p). Once again, there is no interim dividend. The preference dividend for the six months to end-February 1991 will not be paid because of a lack of distrib-

Ciba-Geigy tonic Swiss pharmaceuticals com-

pany, rose from SwFr2,450 (£996) to SwFr2,500 on news that American authorities have given permission to Biocine, a joint venture be-tween Ciba-Geigy and Chiron Corp., to test an anti-Aids vaccine on humans.

Foseco 'accepts' Foseco, 63.5 per cent of whose shareholders have accepted the bid from Burmah Castrol, has "with great reluctance" advised shareholders to accept Burmah's offer. Foseco directors will accept in respect of

their own shares. Petaling halted

Petaling Tin, the Malaysian mining group, has been block-ed by a high court order from finalising a planned share arrangement with Fandison Resources Management.

Ericsson buy Ericsson, the Swedish electronics and telecommunications equipment group, is buying Spectrum Communi-cations and Electronic Corp of

America for \$6.5 million.

By MARTIN BARROW

THIRD Market companies are making a last-minute dash to apply for a quotation on the Unlisted Securities Market before December 31.

The International Stock Ex-change is considering late applications from at least 12 companies that wish to graduate from the Third Market, which will be abolished at the end of the year. But about half of the 34

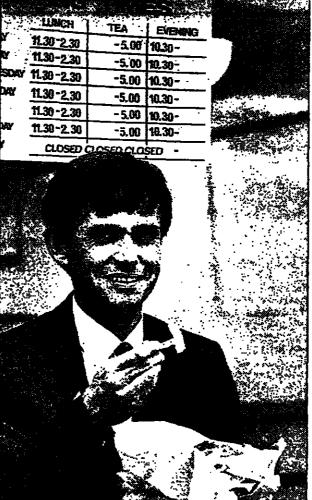
communies still quoted on the Third Market are likely to revert to trading on a matched-bargain basis under the exchange's Rule 535 (2). Two are believed to be considering approaches from other

The Third Market is being phased out to comply with European Commission directives intended to create uniform listing requirements for quoted groups in member

As part of the overhaul, the trading record for the USM is being cut from three years to two. This should enable startup companies which floated on the Third Market to raise launch finance to switch to the USM if they wish. A total of 64 companies

were quoted on the Third Market at the start of 1990. In early January they were joined by another five companies. mainly ventures established under the Business Expansion Scheme, which were seeking to provide a market in their shares before the door was closed.

Since then, the number has steadily been cut, with companies switching to the USM or merging with larger partners, although some have fall- domestic appliances maker. en by the wayside. Shares in five companies are suspended. But a sizeable contingent expects to make its debut on the chief executive, is another ments have the right record to USM in the new year. This likely candidate for promo- suggest greater stock market should include Tomorrows tion, to the delight of the ambitions. Hilclare switched Leisure, a hotelier and snook-



USM: John Barnes of Harry Ramsden's

er club operator, Barbican 12.8 per cent shareholder. Holdings, which has a theme park in Cornwall; and Hartley known for its stake in Cowan Baird, an electric motors and de Groot, the toy company,

Wilton Group, probably best could also move up to the

Harry Ramsden's, the fish USM. Sleepy Kids, Oxford and chip shop operator where Virology, Chemex Interna-John Barnes is chairman and tional and Caldwell Invest-Kuwait Food Company, its to the USM this month. A ket was intended to replace.

cluster of exploration com-panies based in Dublin are likely to take advantage of a decision by the Irish Stock Exchange to retain its Third Market to provide a market in their shares. A likely exception is Eglinton Exploration, an oil producer and gold miner, which has indicated its inten-

tion to join the USM. Many companies had not made clear their intentions to the Stock Exchange before Christmas, and it can only be assumed that these will fall back on Rule 535 (2) or are considering alternatives, including a takeover.

Question marks hang over the intentions of Analysis Holdings, the electronic publishing group, and Semper-nova, which makes an edible coating designed to extend the shelf life of fresh fruit and vegetables. Edinburgh Hibernian, the football club, which fought off a bid by Heart of Midlothian, may also lose its stock market listing.

Many Third Market companies see no advantage in incurring the cost of applying for a USM quotation when there is almost no market in their shares at the moment. Most of the equity is held by directors or individual institutions that supported their flotation and trading in these shares is already difficult.

The relatively high number of companies that will not make the transition suggests that the Stock Exchange has been firm with those it deems unsuitable for the USM, taking some of the heat out of accusations that the market would be devalued by the admission of Third Market

It will be interesting to see, however, whether the sudden increase in companies trading under Rule 535 (2) results in the re-creation of the unlamented over-the-counter market, which the Third Mar-

## Shops sigh with relief

the administrators to look for

By Ross Tieman

MANY of Britain's retailers open their doors for the first day of the sales today in the knowledge that it was not such a bad Christmas after all.

Squalls over Sunday trading aside, most retailers seem to have sailed through a relatively late Christmas shop-Ding season with more momentum than expected.

High interest rates and less readily available credit had only a limited effect on trade. Stanley Kalms, the chairman of Dixons, the electrical goods retailer, said: "There are no tear stains on our carpet." Sales of camcorders, computers and electronic goods had held up well, he said, while overall trading had been

A spokesman for Asda, the supermarket group, said trading in northern England and Scotland was stronger than that in southern England. There had also been a late rush

to the food counters. He said: "Over the past five years there has been a trend for Christmas to come very, very, late, and we had pre-pared ourselves."

He added that families were more inclined to buy prepared

financier, for \$30 million plus the assumption of \$186 mil-

lion in debt or other liabilities.

which had an excellent box

office return on "Bill and

Ted's Excellent Adventure'

and "When Harry Met Sally",

appeared to be among a

handful of successful indepen-

This year, however, the

Until last year Nelson,



No Sunday trading: Michael Pickard, head of Sears

ers, Asda opened its doors early, and carried on trading until 6 pm on Christmas Eve.

Sunday, provoking criticism

Nelson sells to Swid

From A Correspondent in los angeles

Entertainment Group to Stephen Swid, the New York of SCS Communications

of Hamlet.

ding and cakes from super- keep the sabbath sacrosanct.

Many retailers opened on

foods such as Christmas pud- from lobbyists determined to

### Ratners, the jeweller, openmarkets, adding to retailers' profits. Like many food retail-

ed on three Sundays before Christmas, except in areas where councils had had its shops served with injuctions preventing trade. Ratners said it had achieved Sunday sales worth about a tenth of normalweekly takings.

BhS, part of Storehouse. opened more than 100 stores last Sunday. However, the company insisted that this was 'a customer service" and that THE British-owned NHI video rentals and a drop of it had no plans to continue BRENT Chemicals Inter- range of inks and coatings to Sunday opening throughout

(Nelson Holdings International) has agreed to sell Nelson foreign distribution rights. the year. Mr Swid is chief executive Michael Pickard, the chief executive of Sears, said yeswhich he formed last year terday that the final week "was after being part of a partnerneither a triumph nor a ship that sold CBS songs to disaster. It was not a bad week, Thorn EMI for \$308 million. and we were relatively sat-Nelson has also co-produced with Warner Brothers the isfied against the background". recently released production

He added that the West End Mr Swid is continuing his of London was relatively quiet plan to buy small to medium on Saturday, but Selfridges. sized entertainment and methe flagship store, did well. dia companies in order to "We are not Sunday traders, company started to suffer build SCS into a broad-based so we did not join in that losses due to lower home communications company. | caper," Mr Pickard said.

## Gibbens to retire as Sema chairman

**Brent buys Process Ink** 

By OUR CITY STAFF

£5.4 million. cash. Brent will pay £1.15 mil-Process, which is based at St lion 18 months after comple-

Helens, Merseyside, with a tion and £1.25 million, in cash

further manufacturing site at or interest-bearing loan stock,

Atherstone, Warwickshire, 30 months after completion.
supplies inks and coatings to Process Ink made pre-ta-

national, the speciality chemi- the packaging market."

the Anglo-French computer better software and services com-

The move is seen as the last step of the boardroom restructuring since the company was created two years ago with the merger of Sema Metra and CAP Group.

In an agreed statement, Mr Group over the past three decades."

He added: "During this period, an entirely new industry has been established. With the creation of a truly European business now a reality, the time is right to retire.

Greame Ferrero, Sema's 27.8 per cent holding. UK marketing director, said that in Britain, which ac-counts for 37 per cent of the understood that Mr Gibbens' group's business, "the effects successor will be British.

cals group, is extending its

packaging inks and coatings

activities with the acquisition

of Process Ink Holdings for

the packaging industry and

packaging inks and coatings area. We now offer a complete

BARNEY Gibbens is to retire of recession are clear", alas chairman of Sema Group, though Europe is faring much

Mr Ferrero said France, pany, when the year ends next Belgium and Spain are "slowing down slightly" although German trading has been "bright" since unification. Sema also announced the

appointment of Antonio Barrera de Irimo as deputy Company.

About 20 per cent of the group's shares are in British started receiving their allocahands. Compagnie Financière de Paribas, the investment banking group, has a 37 per cent stake, while Cap Gemini Sogeti, the French software house, has built up a hostile

A new chairman has not ye

Brent paid £3 million on

completion, of which £50,000

will be settled by the issue of

shares and the remainder in

Process Ink made pre-tax

profits of £500,000 in the year

## STOCK MARKET

## Electricity loses power as small investors cash in

FRANK and his friends were trading, touching £1,455 betracted by the defensive qual-out in force on Christmas Eve, fore closing £40 lighter at ities of the water companies cashing in their profits from £1,460. Brokers said every and prices closed higher on the electricity.

vate investors were unloading were met by bargain hunters, parcels of 100 shares in the 12 The rest of the equity Market-makers, knowing

that private investors had tions, marked prices lower at the outset, forcing them to accept a smaller profit on their investment. Falls were seen in most places, although there was one area of resistance helped by continued talk of stakebuilding. South Wales, where Welsh Water has already taken a near 10 per cent stake, held steady at 164p.

Eastern lost 3½p to 135½p,
East Midland 3p to 147p,
London 3p to 141p, Manweb
4p to 172p, Midland 3p to
140p, Northern 3p to 146p,
Northern 3p to 146p Norweb 2p to 146p, Seeboard 4p to 141p, Southern 4½p to 140½p, South West 5p to 146p, and Yorkshire 2p to 158p. The electricity package dipped below £1,500 in early

time market-makers allowed Substantial numbers of pri- the price to drift too far, they

electricity companies after fi- market had a subdued session. Southern 1p to 244p, South chairman. Mr Barrera has nally receiving their share Share prices lost ground on West 1p to 262p, Thames 4p been a member of Sema's certificates. During the short- lack of support but closed to 270p, Welsh 1p to 273p, Gibbens, who has spent 28 board since 1988. He is a years with the group, said: "I former Spanish minister of am very proud of the achieveam very proud of 9.5 at 1,678.9. Government securities were

left nursing falls of £44 at the longer end as the prospects of continued to fade. Oil shares responded pos-

itively to the increasing tension in the Middle East and political turmoil in the Soviet Union, but dealers said this was more of a pre-emptive mark-up than a sign of gen-uine support. BP rose 4p to 339p, Enterprise I I p to 610p, Lasmo 10p to 388p, Shell 6p to 467p and Ultramar 5p to 324p. Burmah gained 5p to 510p as the board of Foseco reluctantly recommended its increased offer of 300p a share to shareholders. Foseco shares 13.7p a share. responded by matching Burm-

day. Anglian firmed lp to 271p, Northumbrian lp to 275p, North West 2p to 266p, Severn Trent 3p to 240p,

Mersey Docks and Harbour Company fell 20p to 165p on confirmation that Peel Holdings' 10 per cent stake in the an early cut in interest rates company had been placed with institutions late on Fri-

day at 161p. ICI fell a further 9p to 879p, still overshadowed by last week's profit downgradings by brokers to below £1 billion.

Speyhawk, the property developer, fell 16p to 83p with the market worried by reports that the group is finding the

going tough. WPP Group recovered 10p to end at 60p after falling sharply on Friday, when the advertising group revoked its 1990 interim dividend of

Analysts said the shares had been suffering for some time and were due for a recovery.

## ( WORLD MARKETS )

ah's terms with a rise of 15n.

Fund managers were at-

## Nikkei slips 1.4%

specialises in offset inks. to end-February, on sales of Steve Cuthbert, Brent's £4.9 million. Sales for the six chief executive, said: "Process months to end-August brings a new dimension to our amounted to £3.1 million, the board in one of the slowest with pre-tax profits of £380,000.

trading days of the year. The holiday season, political uncertainties in the Soviet Union, events in the Gulf. and a weaker yen combined to sap about seven to one. buying energy from the market, brokers said. Mike Morizumi, associate

strategist at Lehman Brothers Japan, said: "Most foreigners are away, and sales people are sitting around looking at each other. It's a totally inefficient day. Everyone should have stayed at home."

351.72 points, or 1.46 per first close below 24,000 since fallen 405.34 points on Friday,

O'Connor, of Chicago, will NERVOUSNESS over the continue to run its American equities business, while Swiss Bank will take over its foreign

December 12. The index had a day.

while Monday was a national SHARES closed weaker across holiday in Japan.

> lion shares, matching the second lowest volume of the year, set on November 20. Falling issues led gaining shares by The broader first section index, Topix, lost 39.65 points

to 1,725.17, after falling 30.55 points on Friday. Yesterday was the last trading day for settlement in December, a fact that kept many players out of the market, brokers said.

The market closes for the year after a half-day of trade on December 28 and reopens

## Sydney closes at low

deadline for potential hostilities in the Middle East and 29, 1988. lack of investor interest before the Christmas break pushed the Australian stock market to the All-Resources dipped 1.2 its lowest close for nearly three points to 759.1, while the gold ing made it an ideal partner. wait-and-see attitude. The All-

The All-Industrials index

(Reuter) \$34%.

### Slow trade sends Turnover totalled 210 mil-**Dow lower**

New York

SHARES ended a sparsely attended session with moderate losses in the slowest trading for four years. Investor uncertainty about tensions in the Gulf and concern about the Soviet Union kept buyers away.

Sharp losses in the bond market also discouraged gains. The Dow Jones industrial average closed 12.37 points lower at 2,621.29. Declining shares led gaining issues eight to five as about 57 million shares were traded, the lowest volume since December 26, 1986, when 48.9 million shares traded. The market closed two hours early.

Comments at the weekend from America and Iraq heightened fears of a war in the Middle East

Shares in Hanover were actively traded, falling \$\% at \$23\%. The stock trades minus its dividend from today.

Shares in several utilities were also active. Southern New England Telephone fell \$% to \$33%, while Commonwealth Edison rose \$1/2 to

prepares cup tie

By MARTIN WALLER THE next election will be held in the first half of September and will give the Conservatives a majority of 320 seats, 27

more than Labour, but not enough to hand them outright control. The Christmas season is traditionally the time for such prognostications, but the above comes not from Old Moore's Almanac or even from a weighty political pundit. It comes courtesy of IG Index, the specialist financial bookmaker, and represents the view of the gambling man

.Betting on the outcome of the election in the street. represents a fringe, albeit fun, business for a bookie that prefers to concentrate on stock market indices, currencies and

Commodity prices.

During the electricity float, IG Index was the source of the "grey market" prices, which indicate, or say some commentators influence, the first dealings of major issues. IG reckons to have made a five-figure loss on electricity, as the prices on the day ran away from even the most optimistic forecasts. As the offer closed on December 5, the book-

IG bets on a political future maker indicated an average premium of 32p, half the figure eventually achieved, although the view that the issue would be a success pushed the average to about 146p as first dealings approached.

Financial health warnings are plas-tered over IG's literature. The warnings are wholly justified, for this is in no way a low-risk operation. IG is a member of Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers and its financial bets are legally enforceable, unlike other gambling agreements, courtesy of a special provision in the

Financial Services Act. Gains are taxfree, but losses cannot be offset against tax. As an execution-only dealer, IG is strictly precluded from giving advice. The potential gains are huge, but the downside is equally enormous. A client might typically limit a smaller bet to £1,000, but an adverse market move-

Clearly this is not a market for Aunt

Agatha. The impression of the typical

customer is of a Capital City type who

finds his day job on the currency or

futures desk too staid and boring and

ment could wipe this out entirely.

offsets part of its risk by hedging on the relevant market and makes much of its profit on the spread between the two quotes it gives potential customers. It makes most of its money in turbulent markets, which tend to tempt in gamblers. Business hit a record on the Monday after Britain joined the European exchange-rate mechanism.
The curriculum vitae of Stuart

wants to enliven his leisure hours. IG

Wheeler, IG's founder, sets him a little apart from the average bookmaker. His background takes in Eton and the Guards, the law and merchant banking, from which he made his exit during the secondary banking crisis of the early Seventies. He said: "It's high risk, there's no question about that, and we try to emphasise that in our literature. But the fact that we are a bookmaker doesn't make it any more risky than dealing through an options or commodities

broker." In 1986, the company bought the financial betting division of Ladbroke Group, since when it has never looked back - only forwards.

### **Swiss Bank** in Chicago futures link

SWISS Bank Corporation has won approval from the Federal Reserve Board to form a strategic alliance with O'Connor Partners, one of America's largest futures and options firms. The link-up will allow Swiss Bank to sell currency and interest rate options worldwide.

Swiss Bank is investing more than \$100 million for an 80 per cent stake in SBC/OC Partners, the new joint ven-ture, which will provide technical services.

exchange and European and Japanese business. O'Connor required a part-

### The Nikkei index fell cent, to close at 23,767.88, the on January 4, when trading first close below 24,000 since will again be restricted to half

ner to provide capital backing. years. Trade was dull, with marker gained 12.2 points to Swiss Bank's AAA credit rat- overseas buyers adopting a 1,135.3.

Ordinaries index closed 1.5 points lower at 1,270.7, its lowest close since February

declined 1.2 points to 1,935.1,

# BUSINESS

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 26 1990** 

# deals

By Ross Tieman INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RMC Group, the ready mixed concrete supplier, has uncovered arrangements restricting competition between nine of its British subsidiaries and 20 other producers of ready mixed concrete in their areas. Office of Fair Trading.

restrictive practices court. Derelease dated Saturday, December 22, which invited queries only after January 3. RMC has been involved in

restrictive practices in the supply of cement twice before. In 1978, court orders were obtained by Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of fair trading, against 44 ready mixed concrete companies. including RMC, prohibiting restrictive arrangements. In June this year, RMC and two other suppliers admitted contempt of court after RMC management uncovered cartel arrangements at subsidiaries. Sir Gordon has criticised

the construction industry repeatedly as having the worst record of restrictive practices. In the past five years, his office has also uncovered pricesteel bars, insulation materials, glass and road surfacing materials. During the contempt hearing in June, RMC told the restrictive practices court that it was carrying out further enquiries. The contempt proceedings arose from a discovery, in 1987, that in 1983 one of RMC's subsidiaries had been party to restrictive arrangements in the Banbury and Bicester areas of Oxfordshire.

The latest discoveries concern arrangements operated "at various periods from the 1987 order". RMC said "a few" did not end until "about three years ago".

The company said that the arrangements were in contravention of express instructions to staff. "RMC has expressed to the OFT its regret about these arrangements,

Under the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976, details of agreements involving certain restrictions must be sent to the OFT. They are then referred to the Restrictive Practices Court for a ruling on whether they operate against the public interest. Where such a ruling has been made, companies and the executives of companies that continue to operate outlawed agreements

# Restricted Pan Am raises at RMC \$20m in plane deal with UAL

A rival offer has already

emerged from a consortium

Group. However, analysts are

\$450 million takeover and Pan Am says it is unclear of

IAG's intentions. IAG has

declined to name any mer-

A simple short-term sol-

ution for Pan Am's cash

problems would have been an

By MICHAEL TATE, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

least £222 million of capital, the sale of Herman's, the units, each of which will

Details, including terms of the American sporting goods comprise three new ordinary

certainties and fierce com-

petition in food retailing. It

says the board has "no plans

shares in the near future", and

speaks of the difficulties of

trading in the units. There will

be no dividend "in the

The prospectus confirms

that the City takeover panel

has cleared Wasserstein Per-

ella, the New York investment

group, to lift its stake in

The decision by Wasser-

refinancing, after the Great

Atlantic & Pacific Tea Com-

pany (A & P), which speaks for

19.9 per cent of the equity,

A&P has said, however,

add up the figures. Bad results not

ones, they are also more dangerous.

From New Year's Day, Roy

refused to take part.

Isosceles to 40 per cent.

foresecable future".

its battle for survival, after an will be "very sensitive" to

agreement with its bankers future trading profits, the level

and main equity holders for a of interest charges and the

refinancing that will raise at timing of and proceeds from

open offer, were dispatched on group.

But the 4,000 small inves-

tors, who speak for about 13.5

per cent of the equity, will

apply for the new units only at

their peril. The prospectus

contains a strong warning

Isosceles points out that

borrowings will remain high --

senior and mezzanine debt

will still be about £1.2 billion

about the risks of the stock.

RMC has given details to the owns United Airlines, The discovery means RMC yesterday gave the strugmight be in contempt of the gling Pan American Corporation a \$20 miltails were revealed in a press lion Christmas present to keep it in the air.

The cash was in payment for Pan Am's San Francisco operations, the first phase of a 11 bankruptcy and then larger deal which includes emerge from court protection selling United a package of routes into London's Heathrow airport for \$400 million.

The San Francisco agree-ment calls for Pan Am to sell to United two Boeing 747/200 aircraft, spare parts and various leaseholds at the airport. Pan Am said it has been paid for and has delivered the planes. The transfer of the San Francisco assets is awaiting final municipal approval.

But the \$20 million cash

may only tide Pan Am over for a few weeks. Sales of spare parts and smaller assets are expected to bring in a further fixing cartels in the supply of \$10 million and Boeing has just paid the airline \$80 million for planes, although much of that has already gone to pay other debts.

Plane maker Airbus Industrie has given a further 20 days' grace on more than \$30 million it is owed while Pan Am seeks more time to pay. Late yesterday, unconfirmed reports suggested Northwest hands. But it is understood Airlines had raised the money United was reluctant to agree,

UAL Corporation, which owns United Airlines, America's largest carrier, vesterday gave the strug-

million within weeks. A short-States Department of Transterm bridging loan to keep the airline affoat was one of the port and United executives returned to America no nearer any agreement. Approval for sticking points of TWA's \$375 the routes is part of a much million bid for the airline. A condition of that loan was that Pan Am file for Chapter wider issue which could shape

the future of British Airways.
In mid-November, UAL agreed the deal to acquire Pan emerge from court protection with TWA as its preferred Am's five key London routes, and subsequently TWA agreed to sell its major Amercreditor and effective owner. Analysts say such a deal would be advantageous to Carl Icahn, TWA's owner and ica to London routes to AMR Corp for \$445 million. a former corporate raider, but hopes of a deal with TWA are

Britain is unlikely to agree to the sale of any of the beginning to fade. Pan Am, despite its problems, is said to London routes until America gives ground and allows BA to operate services within Amerbe unwilling to go into bankruptcy to facilitate the TWA ica and in competition with its domestic airlines. American carriers already operate with UK passengers on flights to other parts of Europe. called Iowa Acquisition

Failure for BA to gain access sceptical over financing for its to the American domestic market would be a major setback to BA's strategy of becoming a global carrier in the Nineties and would leave chant bank or identify any of American airlines, particuits backers.

American airlines, particularly United, dominating worldwide air travei.

Each delay in the talks threatens Pan Am's survival. advance from United on part Once the king of transatlantic of the \$400 million due once air travel, it has given warning the Heathrow routes change more than once in the past few months that it may have to file

shareholders take part.

existing issued capital.

cant degree of risk" in the new shares. The new units will

units, given economic un- roughly triple the size of

to seek a listing for Isosceles £115 million, the UK con-

stein Perella was essential to will be cash, with the balance

the success of the group's representing the conversion of

12.99 million new Isosceles

shares and nine new redeem-

Apart from Wasserstein

Perella, which will underwrite

sortium of Mercury Asset

Management, 3i, Globe Ven-

ture Nominees, Murray

Johnstone and Standard Char-

tered Bank, together with

Euris SA, the French fund

management group, will take

up its entitlement, totalling

£107 million, leaving it with a

£135 million and £150 million

mezzanine debt into equity.

the agreement of the group's

lenders to a new repayment schedule for £592 million of

senior debt, from 1991 and

1992 to August 1996, and the

deferral of £48 million of

Ernest Sharp, Isosceles

chairman, said the group now

had an equity base more ap-

propriate to the size of the

business. He added that he

mezzanine loan interest.

Crucial to the package was

Of the new money, between

46.5 per cent holding.

## THF success no pie in the sky



BRIAN Todd, head chef at Trusthouse Forte in-flight catering kitchens at Gatwick airport, dusts with sugar some of the 50,000 mince pies baked for those travelling by air over the Christmas

The THF chain prepared 200,000lb of Brussels sprouts, 50,000 turkeys, a million chipolatas and 69 tons of Christmas pudding. Alan Hearn, managing director of THF hotels, said celebrations had not been hit noticeably by the

Evidence of that was supplied by the company's Country Inns, which were fully booked and where food and beverage business was strong. THF was also expecting to meet its target of a 5 per cent increase in Christmas trade. THF spent £60 million this year refurbishing 25 per cent of its hotel bedrooms and has regained its status as the favourite chain for frequent business travellers in the annual, independent National Opinion Polls survey.

THF lost the position to Ladbroke's Hilton chain of hotels for the first time

"We are particularly pleased to have won this back," Mr Hearn said.

Istanbul

inevitable".

Strike to close

Polly Peck's

Unipac plant

UNIPAC. Polly Peck International's North Cypriot card-

board packing plant, will be closed because of the failure to

settle a strike over pay that has

halted production, Turkey's

Anatolian News Agency has

The strike, by more than

150 Unipac workers, began on

December 3. The news agency

that said the company had

failed to meet client orders

and that stopping operations

at the factory "has become

Michael Jordan, one of the

three administrators running

the affairs of Polly Peck, said:

THE POUND

STOCK MARKET

(Reuter)

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## Reuters in pact with Chicago exchanges

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

REUTERS, the information Refinance saves Isosceles services group, and two Chi-cago futures exchanges have agreed on a letter of intent to set up Globex, an electronic futures and options trading system. If Globex proves ISOSCELES, the Gateway after the refinancing - and Isosceles. It could raise up to supermarket chain, has won that the value of the new units £237 million if all the outside successful it could change the archaic open-outery market beyond all recognition. The rescheduling will be effected via an open offer of

The deal between Reuters, the Chigago Board of Trade (CBOT) and the Chicago Mer-cantile Exchange (CME), the world's largest futures and ptions exchanges, will be a 20-year contract to establish Globex.

Initially, Globex will be employed in after-hours tradng but, if it works successfully, it will eventually replace the open-outery market at CBOT and the CME. Globex even has the potential to emerge as a world monopoly because of the strong position

of the two Chicago exchanges. A decision on Globex has long been awaited, and its implementation as an afterbours trading system is now expected by the end of March with on-site testing in Chicago. New York and London.

Globex has been developed jointly by the three parties and has undergone extensive testing in recent months but the launch has been postponed several times. The same fate has befaller

Dealing 2000, a technically similar system developed for the foreign exchange markets. An agreement has yet to be reached on when the system is to be implemented.

The letter of intent is described as resolving all substantive issues but is subject to ratification by CBOT and CME members and approval by respective governing

## Japan plans a neutral budget

Tokyo Japan's finance ministry proposed a tight budget of yen 70.3 trillion for the fiscal year starting April 1, 1991 with spending and overseas aid final draft on Saturday. than in the previous year,

ministry officials said. The proposed budget represents a 6.2 per cent increase in spending over that planned for the current fiscal year. This compares with 9.6 per cent growth in 1990/91.

of the research division of the ministry's budget bureau, anticipated slower growth in said: "Japan's fiscal situation tax revenues and higher debt to most other industrial coun-

However, the ministry tried to allocate funds in such a way that will enable Japan to meet its expanding world role, Mr Matsutani added. The ministry set a 5.8 per

cent increase in overseas aid in the main government budget to about Y865 billion, slightly less than the 5.9 per cent increase projected in the current fiscal year.

A final increase in overall overseas aid for 1991/92, however, would be about 8 per cent, taking all funding into consideration, after a final 8.2 per cent rise planned for

GOLD prices in Tokyo surged

as individual investors bought

up the precious metal in

reaction to increasing Gulf

tension. The advance was

\$390 an ounce at the end of

Tokyo trading, its highest

up from \$383.38 in Zurich on itomo Corp.

Gold bullion was quoted at

magnified by thin trading.

Gold surges to \$390

level since early October and Metals Marketing at Sum-

The ministry will negotiate with spending departments on the details of the budget before smaller increases in defence the government produces a

The ministry budgeted a 5.1 per cent hike in defence spending for 1991/92, to about Y4.37 trillion after a planned 6.1 per cent rise in 1990/91. Defence spending will be less than 1 per cent of rowth in 1990/91. total economic output (gross Akihiko Matsutani, director national product) in 1991/92. Ministry officials cited

nains grim in comparison servicing costs among factor contributing to a tighter

Higher interest rates and oil prices coupled with a plunge in share prices this year cut into corporate profits, causing a slowdown in tax revenues. However, the draft budget

was not designed to stimulate the economy, which is expected to remain buoyant. "The fiscal 1991 budget is neutral for the economy," said Mr Matsutani. Private economists have

joined the government in saying that slower economic growth will help prevent a rekindling of inflation.

Monday. The spot January

gold futures contract on the

Tokyo Commodity Exchange

(TOCOM) closed at Y1,729

per gram, up Y57 from Friday.

lators on the Tokyo Commod-

ity Exchange sparked a rally,

said Takeo Umezawa, deputy

general manager of Precious

(Reuter)

Short-covering by specu-

FT 30 Share 678.9 (-9.5)

1.8750 (-0.0090)

German mark

2.8875 (+0.0021)

92.7 (-0.1)

Exchange index

FT-SE 100 2156.3 (-8.1) New York Dow Jones 2621.29 (-12.37)

Tokyo Nikkei Avge Closed Closing Prices ... Page 26

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 14% 3-4-137% 3-month eligible bills 13 2-137% US: Prime Rate 10% Federal Funds 5% 3-month Treasury Bills 6 54-6 53% 30-year bonds 104° ± 104° ±

CURRENCIES \$ FFr5 2015 \$ Yen136 t0 \$ Inger 62 3 \$DP Enva

GOLD London Fixing: AM 3382 GC pm Sn/a close \$383 CO 384 GD (\$204 25-

NORTH SEA OIL

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South Artica Rd Rater for the series began begins the best of supported by Buttary Buttary Buttary (1997) and the support of th

Retail Price Index 130.0 (November)

But by then the market had shut up

### Sale Now On **BEDS · BEDDING · BEDLINENS** FURNISHINGS · ACCESSORIES liuge reductions Normal Sale on ex-display models! Price Price Kigh Quality Pocket Sprung Mattresses & Divans HERALD SUPREME Divan Set 50" MARGOT: Drian Set 5 U £1275 £875 MERALD Datas Sci 501 £1046 £695 £685 Traditional & Modern Brass Bedstead ONFORD Erass Sedstead 4 6 FLORA Crass Bedstead 50° £995 ECLIPSE Erass Bedstead 50° £795 £675 Traditional & Modern Wooden Beds BIGBURY Crackle Glaze & Gold Leaf Eedstead 5'0" £1090 £595 SORRENTO Watnut Fourboster 60° £2295 £1495 Tius Full Range of Sedroom Acce Mirrors Lamps Tables etc. CREVAL MINEOR Model 713 Pure Brass £450 £325 Hage Selection of Italian Bedspreads at INALF PRICE OF LESSI eg. ROYALE £225 £110

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Old Christchurch Rd. 0202 296484

that it will vote in favour of the package, and will retain its right to appoint a director to the Isosceles board. But in underwriting the A & P entitlement. Wasserstein Perella will take its holding above the 30 per cent level that would normally trigger a bid. was delighted with the refi-Details of the restructuring will guarantee at least £222 with the job of running million of new capital for supermarkets." All the news that's fit to bury By DAVID BREWERTON THERE'S nothing like Christmas Eve (except New Year's Eve and Maundy Thursday) for announcing the news that its subjects might prefer was never read. Some items, however, deserve a proper audience.
Scottish Heritable Trust, for instance, told that small section of the City that struggied into work that the Speciatly Selected from our Exclusive Stockl interim package of support from its principal United Kingdom bankers. STETUS Lacquer & Leather Bedstead 1603-200cm £1095 £950 which was due for review at the end of 13TLLIO Guernetal & Brass Bedstead 4.6" 08H2 G2512 the year, has been extended. Dis-LIBERTY An Deta Boistead 50" £1395 £1150 cussions with those bankers, said WASHSTAND Model 139, Victorian Style 5399 £325 Scottish Heritable Trust, are contin-VALET Model 144 Brass & Mood £130 £99 uing and it is expected that a further STANDARD LAMP Model 124:5, Brass £199 £150 announcement will be made in the 1180 LINEA Brass Table early part of next year. Good news, one might think. But read on. The board also announced the resignation of Stephen McBride. the financial director, who will be leaving the company at the end of the year, which coincides with the close of



"Funny old game, stock markets" Sheohard will come in as deputy the financial period. Mr McBride was chairman in an executive capacity. the unfortunate director who had to Another resignation that might only take longer to add than good have gone unnoticed was that of Robert Kempton from Perry Group,

announcement timed 1.02 pm, said it had withdrawn from negotiations to acquire the dealer division of Consolidated Microvision (Holdings). Cyril Gay, chairman, said: "The information we have received is not satisfactory to us and we are not, therefore, proceeding with the acquisition." Ptarmigan Holdings, the artificial flowers, sausage skins and hotel

company that this year sold its fish farm and cake artistry businesses, is, meanwhile, trying to focus on one principal business area and adopt a 'clear strategy", perhaps in the hope that its shareholders do not focus on No final dividend will be paid for

the year ended June 30. Pre-tax profits of £203,357 compared with £422,749. Turaover was £4.92 million (£7.49 million). Net earnings turn out at 2.2p compared with 4.08p a share previously. There was a £683,749 extraordinary loss, and Ptarmigan shows a £493,339 loss for the accounting period.

Ptarmigan paid an unchanged interim dividend of 0.25p a share this year. For the previous 18-month while Eurocopy, in a Christmas Eve accounting period, Ptarmigan paid

two interim dividends and a final dividend of 0.25p, making 0.75p for the period. Alan McClue, chairman, said it was an increasingly difficult year for the

group with a severe downturn experienced in the second half. The current year started well in the artificial flowers division, but Mr McClue is Brent (Jan ) cautious about short-term prospects, The shares traded at 15p on Monday

Kuala Lumpur Kepong reported halved pre-tax profits of M\$84.8 million (£16.27 million), against M\$171.9 million, in the year ended September. But the company says if higher palm products prices are maintained, results should improve this financial year. If not, stand by next Cristmas Eve. Wide awake dealers also learned

that the covertible capital bond issue at LIT Holdings, the futures clearing and financial services group, has been shunned by its shareholders. Only 3.35 per cent of the £5.75 million issue has been applied for, leaving the banks to take up the remaining £5.56

million. shop for the holiday.

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